

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Travel chaos for islands as crews call for walkout

STEVEN RAE
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ISLANDERS are bracing themselves for three days of travel chaos as CalMac ferry workers prepare to strike tomorrow (Friday).

Members of RMT, the transport workers union, met CalMac officials in a last ditch bid to resolve the dispute over pensions and working conditions on Monday, but talks were unsuccessful.

CalMac predicted that the majority of services would run yesterday (Wednesday) and today, but expected major disruption tomorrow, Friday.

Main ferry routes serving Mull, Islay, Bute, Arran, Coll and Tiree will be severely affected, but the strike is expected to have an effect on all 49 of CalMac's ports, including its busiest hub, Oban.

In the interim, CalMac and government agency Transport Scotland have made contact with bus, rail and airline operators to see what additional services can be provided to help mitigate the impact of the strike.

CalMac's managing director, Martin Dorchester, said: 'We are currently working on alternative timetables and contingency plans to ensure disruption to these lifeline services are kept to a minimum. However, the travelling public needs to be aware that disruption is inevitable and should consider carefully whether their trip is essential before travelling this week.'

The strike has come following worker unrest while the tendering process for the next Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Service (CHFS) contract is under way.



TRoubled WATERS: islanders are anticipating major disruption to CalMac ferry services

The Scottish government has put the £1 billion contract out to tender, which has to happen due to EU law.

CalMac, which has operated the CHFS since the first tender in 2007, and for decades previous to tendering, will go to head-to-head with Serco Caledonian Ferries for the contract.

Final bids will be made in December, with a decision to be announced in May 2016.

RMT's regional manager for Scotland, Gordon Martin, said: 'We are all bitterly disappointed. This is no longer a proposed strike - this is a strike.'

'Our members take this very seriously and this was a hard decision to come to, and we ask that members of the seafaring public support us in our action.'

'The SNP opposed plans for tendering this service when they were in opposition, and now that they are in power, they seem to be all in favour of privatisation. There will be picket lines set up.'

One RMT union member, who asked not to be named, said that there was not universal support for the strike.

He said: 'There are 1,400 members of the CalMac workforce and not all of these people are members of the union. It has created tensions amongst everyone aboard the ship.'

'But the fact of the matter is that the tender process is an absolute nonsense and people are even more unsettled about the long-term future of one of Scotland's assets.'

The Isles, Mary-Jean Devon, who is a resident on Mull, said she had been contacted by worried constituents.

She said: 'On the most part, people on the island seem to be very supportive of the workers in CalMac.'

'One person wrote to me to ask why on earth the government wants to break up one of Scotland's greatest success stories in CalMac by putting the business up for tender.'

'In his letter he said, "it might be that people have complaints and quibbles about CalMac - but at least they are our friends and neighbours and we know that when in need they will pull out all the stops".'

'This is a very difficult time for everyone.'

Gruffalo Times



CHILDREN'S book favourite, The Gruffalo, was exploring the deep dark woods of Oban where he met plenty of friends at Waterstone's store last week for a book event. Essential reading was, of course, the Oban Times

TIMESLINE

'People's games' third time success

THE third 'people's games' will take place at Mossfield Stadium this Sunday.

The games officially start the Highland Games season in North Argyll and will see strong men, cute dogs and athletes come to the town to take part.

Lorne Highland Games chairman Duncan MacIntyre said: 'We are looking forward to a great day whatever the weather.'

'There will be something for everyone. Come along and have a great day out.'

Iona housing first in four decades

THE SOD has been cut for the first social housing on Iona for decades.

Iona Housing Partnership welcomed Argyll and Bute council, Link Group and West Highland Housing Association to their sod-cutting ceremony last week.

The social housing will be the first on the island for 40 years.

A hearty help for west coast clubs

THE Scottish Sea Farms 'Heart of the Community' trust has given more than £500,000 to support 136 charities on the west coast since its launch in 2011.

Successful Argyll applicants include Oban Camanachd shinty club and Oban sailing club.

Jurassic World hits cinema's top list

MORE than 1,500 people visited Oban Phoenix Cinema last weekend to see 'Jurassic World'.

The dinosaur fantasy film is one of the best-selling of the year so far at the community-owned cinema. Manager Jennie Larney said: 'Our advice is to book early.'

Warehouse plan

CONTROVERSIAL expansion plans look likely to go ahead at an Islay distillery after Argyll and Bute council recommended planning approval for the scheme.

The construction of six new warehouses at the Bruichladdich distillery have been met with objections by residents, with one claiming construction traffic would be putting lives at risk due to the width of the roads.

The agenda for the planning, protective services and licensing committee states it is 'recommended that permission be granted subject to the conditions and reasons listed in the main report.'

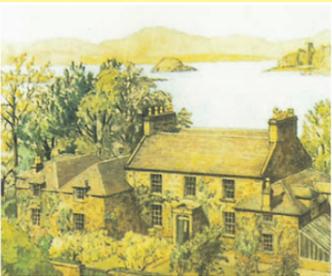
Objections to the construction of the warehouses, include the scale, height, colour and location of the buildings.

The hearing will take place on Monday, June 29 at Bruichladdich village hall.



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Compose the song of the Mòd

LOUISE GLEN
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SWIRLING kilts, puffed cheeks inflating bagpipes, accordions and the swell of singing and laughter are some of the musical images summoned up by the Royal National Mòd.

A competition launched today, Thursday, is asking people from Argyll to put the feelings about the mòd to music.

The competition to write a piece of music is being held by the local organising committee of the mòd in Oban.

The music will be used at

the Royal National Mòd. Nutshell music in Oban and the Oban Times are sponsoring the event.

With unique prizes, there will be much to tempt musicians - young and old - into creating the music, and or music and song. The competition is open to everyone, of any age and of all abilities.

This can be a tune or a song and should capture the spirit of the Royal National Mòd.

The piece should be submitted as a recording. A manuscript version can also be submitted.

All manuscripts should be

handed without the composer's name to preserve anonymity. The winner has to be currently resident in Argyll.

The prize is being sponsored by the local mòd committee as well as Nutshell Music and this newspaper.

Entries should be handed into Furan, the Gaelic centre at the Corran Halls.

The closing date for entries is Friday July 31, 2015.

As a prize, the winning piece will be arranged and recorded by Finlay Wells at Nutshell Music and there will also be an additional cash prize.

Savings target threatens jobs

CUTBACKS at the council have been reduced by almost £10 million to between £21.7 and £26 million, councillors heard on Monday.

Argyll and Bute council says this means a savings target of around £9 million in both 2016/17 and 2017/18.

The cash shortfall was noted at a special meeting of the Policy and Resources committee when it met on Monday.

Councillor Dick Walsh, leader of the council, said: 'Achieving the significant level of savings that we must will impact on our employees and on the work we are able to do for our communities.'

'A lot of work has been done to identify options to explore in making savings. 'And we have identified more potential options.'

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Do Your Eyes Feel Dry or Uncomfortable Using A Computer?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have You Been Told You Have Dry Eyes or Blepharitis?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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WANTED TUG-OF-WAR TEAMS OF 5

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Charm offensive to raise profile

AMBITIONS for Argyll were shared between three senior officers of the council, council leader, Dick Walsh, and David Stewart, MSP, councillors will be told today, Thursday.

Argyll and Bute council's chief executive, Sally Loudon, director, Pippa Milne, leadership support and member services manager, Aileen McNicol, and the leader met David Stewart at the Scottish parliament building.

Dick Walsh said: 'It's part of a series of meetings which I am planning to hold with senior Scottish politicians to raise the profile of Argyll and Bute Council's ambitions to develop its economy through a growing population.'

'The conversation was extremely positive. David Stewart is already a regular visitor to Argyll and Bute and is keen to see more of the good work that the council is doing.'

'He is currently making arrangements to visit the area over the summer. We will be meeting him again during his visit and this will give us an opportunity to continue these productive discussions.'

High road for NHS review

NHS Highland's annual review will take place in Caithness this year and will be held by the Scottish government's cabinet secretary for health and wellbeing, Shona Robison.

The performance of all NHS boards is reviewed by the Scottish government once a year, which provides an opportunity for boards to highlight their achievements and discuss issues and areas of concern with the cabinet secretary, the Scottish government and patients in the local area.

Last year, NHS Highland's annual review was held in Fort William, and in 2013 it was staged in Inverness.

This year, NHS Highland asked the cabinet secretary to consider holding it in Wick, both to ensure that these events are spread throughout the board's area and in recognition of the particular challenges it faces in delivering services in Caithness.

The agenda for the annual review is set by the Scottish government based on national standards and agreed local performance targets.

Millions targeted at school repairs

SCHOOLS are set for a £2.3 million funding boost to carry out essential repairs in 2015/16.

Most of the work relates to rewiring, upgrading heating and roof improvements in both schools and nurseries, a meeting of officials will be held today, (Thursday).

Councillor Aileen Morton said: 'Some of the work is funded through Scottish Government cash for early years' expansion and the upgrading of kitchens to meet the requirement to deliver free school meals for primary one to three pupils.'

'Most of the work will be undertaken during school holiday periods. However, a small number of projects will, where necessary, include work taking place while schools are in session.'

Borrowing rises over two years

THE council has accumulated loans to the value of £173 million.

The annual treasury report shows that borrowing at Argyll and Bute council has increased from £161 million in 2013 to £173 million at the end of the financial year to 2015. The rate of borrowing was at an average of 5.4 per cent.

John's Euro bike-a-thon bought centre's 'life-changing' machine

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OBAN'S Multiple Sclerosis (MS) centre has purchased a 'life-changing' piece of equipment, thanks to a businessman who got on his bike for the medical charity.

The THERA-Trainer Tigo is a piece of specialist equipment, similar to a bike, which helps those with different mobility needs to exercise their arms and legs.

The trainer was purchased earlier in the year, following a donation of more than £6,000 from Oban businessman, John Forteith, whose teenage son Guy suffers from MS, and whose wife Helen is a trustee of the MS therapy centre in town.

John raised the money on a sponsored motorbike journey through Europe last year, starting his adventure in Ireland on November 2 and finishing back in Scotland on November 29, visiting 14 countries on the way.

He said: 'I'd like to say a huge thank you to all the sponsors from my 14 countries challenge. I'm delighted that the money raised has gone to purchase such a useful piece of equipment.'

Manager of the therapy centre, Sandra Owens, said: 'It's a therapeutic exercise machine that moves the limbs for the client, with either no resistance, or as much as the person can manage.'

'As the legs get the message to move, they start to move themselves, which is an exceptionally good workout.'

'We see between 25 and 30 people at the centre every week, with people travelling from the



islands to use it. It's been a huge hit with our clients.

'There are various categories of workout depending on the person's needs, and it's good for the circulatory and lymphatic systems as well.'

John McLaren, 62, lives in Oban and was diagnosed with MS in 1984. He explained how

BUCKET LIST: Participants prepare for the MS centre's midsummer walk on Sunday with collecting buckets. They aim to beat last year's target of £2,000

the new trainer has helped him: 'It's fantastic. It's absolutely life-changing as it gives you the chance to exercise when you couldn't before.'

'I'm here as much as possible - sometimes it feels like I'm addicted to using it.'

John Forteith was one of many of the centre's users and sup-

porters who gathered on Sunday to take part in a midsummer sponsored walk to raise funds.

The six-mile trek started at the centre and took a route via Albany Street, to Kerrera Ferry, then returned to the MS Centre.

Last year, more than £2,000 was raised, with the walkers hopeful they would smash the target.

Tyndrum works will benefit the local community in the long run

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MOTORISTS using the A85 at Tyndrum face disruption until July 9 due to resurfacing works.

Improvements affecting three-quarters of a mile of the road cost £350,000 and work started last Sunday, June 21.

Eddie Ross, BEAR Scotland's operating company representative for the North West Unit, said: 'These essential works will improve the existing road surface, benefiting road users for years to come.'

'We have consulted with local businesses in the area ahead of the improvements and planned the works so that they will be complete before the main tourist season which will benefit businesses and communities in the area. Some delays are inevitable and we would therefore encourage motorists to plan their journey ahead, where possible.'

The first phase of improvements will be carried out between 10pm and 6am each night from Sunday until Tuesday, June 30, and the second phase will be between 7am and 7pm each day from Thursday, July 2, to Thursday, July 9, with no works planned over the weekend.

Due to the restricted width of the carriageway on this section of the A85, the first phase of the works will be carried out under a road closure with a signed diversion route which uses the A82, A83 and the A819 via Criarlarich, Tarbet and Inverary.

The second phase will be carried out under temporary traffic lights with a 10mph convoy system in operation while works are undertaken.

Lack of tower information is an utter folly

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TOURISTS are being kept in the dark about Oban's iconic landmark - McCaig's Tower.

An Oban woman, who walks her dogs every day by the monument, said she meets hundreds of wandering visitors who have no idea where to park, how to get to the tower and or anything about the history of the building.

Julie Cameron, from Longdale, explained: 'Almost every day I am asked what the tower is and a little bit about its history. I have become something of an unpaid tour guide.'

She pressed the authorities last year to provide information boards and signs for visitors but to no avail. She continued: 'I got some community councillors interested. But nothing has changed.'

One of Julie's concerns is that a noticeboard at the foot of the steps to the tower is plastered with adverts for local businesses, but has no information about the tower.

She said: 'There are visitors at the tower all the time and there is no interpretation about what it is and why it is there.'

Julie explained the tower was built in the 1897 by philanthropic banker and Oban resident, John Stuart McCaig. It was built from



INFORMATION GAP: Julie Cameron makes up for the absence of information boards by explaining to two visitors from Derby about the history of the tower 16_t26tower1

There are visitors at the tower all the time and there is no interpretation about what it is and why it is there

Another nearby resident, John Lloyd, who lives at Laurel Road, said: 'There isn't even a car parking sign, or any toilets. We have people driving up to our house all the time thinking they are at the tower.'

'The trees around the tower actually block a view of it from the road. At night this place is full of camper vans because there is no notice telling people they can't stay the night.'

VisitScotland regional visitor services manager, Gillian Mackay, acknowledged the pulling power of the tower.

She said: 'There is certainly a great deal of interest in it from visitors.'

'Our Oban visitor information centre is asked about the tower very often and reckon that it is one of the top three subjects visitors to the town want information on.'

'Our services team are always delighted to share the history of this imposing structure and tell visitors how McCaig had it built in 1897 to provide work for local stonemasons and create a lasting monument in the town to his family.'

'They also encourage people to make the climb up to McCaig's Tower to take in the spectacular views its prominent situation offers across Oban Bay to the Atlantic Islands.'

Riders take part in birthday bash

THE Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) celebrated its 40th anniversary with a carriage driving holiday near Oban. It was held at the Argyll RDA, with eight disabled drivers from across Scotland enjoying the occasion.

RDA publicity officer, Gillie Drapper, said: 'Birthday celebrations were held, including a cake with spectacular candles, a birthday-themed newspaper game and barbecue.'

'Eight drivers from all over the country were able to drive every day without their wet weather gear.'

Horses feature in WWI anniversary

A COMMEMORATION of the events in Argyll during World War One will be celebrated with a horse event in Inveraray on July 2, 2016.

Councillor Maurice Corry, armed forces champion, said: 'This event will commemorate the home front and the effort made by local estates and families during the war.'

'Detail for the event has still to be finalised, but arrangements are being co-ordinated by the Argyll's Lord Lieutenant, Patrick Stewart.'

Slim pickings will be donated to charities

SLIMMERS weighed in when they were told they'd have to wait a few months until a new leader could be found.

Taynuilt man, Stephen Glen-Lee, and Madeleine Ray stepped up to the plate to save the weekly weight loss class held in the basement of Oban's Western hotel.

Stephen, a headteacher by day, said: 'Everyone has put so much time and energy into losing weight so far that it would have been a real shame to stop the class.'

'We have had more than 150 people say they want to join the class. We are hoping that all the money will go to local charities and we will try to keep our expenses to an absolute minimum.'

'We are more than a slimming club, really. Over the years we have all become really good at supporting each other. We have been through it all - weddings, births, divorces and slimming down for Christmas.'

'The good news is that we are only taking a few pounds off everyone every week - I mean in cash, so it is a community slimming club where everyone is welcome and that everyone can afford.'

The club meets in the Western hotel basement once a week on a Monday from 5.30pm.



WEIGHTING GAME: slimmers continue to meet at Oban's Western hotel with weekly fees going to charity

MULL lines



CASTLE VISIT: The group from Oban's Happy House Christian nursery at Duart Castle

Happy day out for nursery

STAFF, parents and children from the Happy House Christian nursery in Oban had a wonderful day out to Mull when they visited Duart Castle recently.

The ferry trip, on Monday, June 15, was paid for by the athletic efforts of one of the nursery's staff members, Karen Forgive, who ran the Inverness marathon to raise funds to finance the excursion.

The nursery staff want to thank Lord MacLean and his staff for organising the visit, providing transport to and from the castle, and serving up cakes from the café to all the hungry visitors.

Threatened to 'deck' officer

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AN unemployed Oban man with a history of alcohol-fuelled problems, was jailed for four months on Tuesday for hurling a volley of four-lettered abuse at two off-duty police officers.

Thomas Barr, who pleaded guilty to threatening and abusive behaviour, swore repeatedly at the officers at Dunbeg Village Store, in Jane Road, on May 30, after a prolonged drinking session.

He accused the officers of helping to get his son jailed and even threatened to 'deck' one of them.

Procurator fiscal, Eoin McGinty told Oban sheriff court that Barr, 54, became abusive after meeting the two off-duty officers in the shop.

McGinty said: 'The witnesses asked the accused to behave himself after he began to make references to his son.

Barr said: 'You got him into jail. You are going to get it.'

He then threatened to 'deck' one of the witnesses. Police were called and he walked away, but was arrested at his home address.

Defence lawyer, Laura McManus, said: 'He had been drinking and alcohol has plagued him throughout his adult life. The difficulty is alcohol and he has suffered numerous problems in recent years. It is simple, alcohol has caused him to behave this way.'

Barr was jailed by Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC for four months.

She said: 'You have a history and a long record of alcohol problems and have been in and out of custody.

'It is a case of anything to keep you away from drink.'

Accused of knife assault

A 32-year-old man from Alexandria appeared in court on Monday in connection with a stabbing in Oban.

William Douglas, 32, appeared in private at Oban sheriff court accused of assaulting a man in Breadalbane Street in the early hours of Friday morning.

Douglas was charged with punching the man to the head and striking him in the body with a knife, causing serious injury and permanent disfigurement.

He was also charged with having an offensive weapon, namely a knife and possessing cannabis.

Douglas made no plea and was remanded in custody.

Scallop industry will be 'destroyed' by new plans

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A LEADING Argyll councillor says the fishing community has been 'abandoned' by the Scottish government after it announced plans to limit or even stop some shellfishing on the west coast from October 1, this year.

The move, councillor Mary-Jean Devon said, will 'destroy' the historical and lucrative scallop industry that sees shellfish from the west coast served in top restaurants all over the world.

Councillor Mary-Jean Devon, who holds the social work portfolio for Argyll and Bute council, said fishing communities throughout the area will be socially and economically threatened because of the new specifications.

Commenting on the Marine Protected Area (MPA) and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) management measures announced last week by the Scottish government, Ms Devon, from Mull, said people were 'very disappointed' with the outcome.

Councillor Devon had worked with the fishing community as well as those on the onshore facilities on the islands as part of a consultation undertaken



“The final document proves they were not listening at all”

Mary-Jean Devon

by the Scottish government.

Ms Devon said: 'The Scottish government came here to listen to our fishermen and we went down to Edinburgh. We really thought they had listened - but the final document proves they were not listening at all.'

'They have taken the information they gained from environmentalists, which is important, but the information and expertise from fishing boats that have sailed in these waters for generations has been ignored.'

'It was hoped that their

expertise might have been listened to, but instead, people who don't know the area as well as the islanders have made a play that sees our fishing boats abandoned.

'People who depend on the sea for their livelihood need the Scottish government to reconsider. These proposals will cause undue hardship.'

Introducing the plans, rural affairs minister, MSP Richard Lochhead, who is responsible for fisheries, said: 'Scotland's seas hold a huge range of species and habitats which are important in UK, European, and global terms.'

“The impact in the vast majority of cases will mean modest changes”

Richard Lochhead

'They also provide a significant fish and shellfish resource, which are important to the rural economy of Scotland.'

'All of these commercial and non-commercial species are dependent on a healthy, clean and diverse environment.'

'We have already designated those marine features we need to protect such as maerl beds and fan mussel aggregations and now we are proposing management regimes, including limits on certain fishing activities, within each MPA.'

'The impact in the vast majority of cases will mean modest changes to fishing



patterns with very limited economic impact given the ability of vessels to fish elsewhere.

'The people of Scotland want our precious marine environment safeguarded and I welcome their views of those who responded to our consultation.'

'We owe it to future generations to take action and I was particularly struck by the comments of the pupils of Sunnyside primary school in Glasgow, who came up with the tagline 'We are Sunnyside Ocean Defenders and we want to defend our seas.'

Skipper was caught with cocaine

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AN Oban boat skipper has been fined £1,200 for selling cocaine after being caught red-handed by police.

Scott McMillan pleaded guilty to a charge of supplying the Class A drug, namely cocaine, after he was stopped by police on April 19 near his

home address at Kerrera Terrace, Dunollie.

A search of McMillan's car found five wraps of cocaine, totalling 4.2grammes, worth around £40-50 per gramme. Police also discovered £200 in cash under the car steering wheel and amongst a collection of CD players.

Oban sheriff court heard on Tuesday that McMillan, 28,

admitted an addiction to the drug, causing him to sell cocaine in order to fund his own £100-a-week habit.

Defence lawyer Edward Thornton said McMillan had initially been suspended from his job as a boat skipper, but has now taken steps to address his addiction.

Mr Thornton said: 'Mr McMillan was in the unfortunate

position of having developed a cocaine habit.

'He was a regular user of the drug and as he was spending £100 a week on his habit, it developed into a serious problem for him. He made no attempt to hide what had happened when he was stopped.'

'He has a responsible job as the boat skipper at a fish farm and earns around £1,500 a

month. He told his employers and they were very supportive.

'He was suspended as they wanted him to address the problem. He has contacted addiction services to deal with his drug abuse problem. He sought assistance for his problem and a care plan has been discussed.'

Sheriff Ruth Anderson, QC, fined McMillan £1,200, payable at £200 a month.

Argyll and Bute is the second-largest council area in Scotland, covering 2,712 square miles, next only to Highland with 10,085 sq/m.

Signing up for Ganavan beach battle

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CAMPAIGNERS for free parking at Ganavan Beach in Oban say they have the backing of the community after 190 people turned out to sign their petition on Saturday.

Oban woman, Doreen MacLeod, who started the campaign, said: 'We haven't had a single "no" so far.'

Fellow campaign organiser and Oban businesswoman, Margaret Cooper, said: 'It's been very positive. We want to keep the momentum going.'

'We've had people out since we set up our stall at 1.30pm and there's been a constant stream since.'

Obanite, Valerie Macarthur, put pen to paper to show her support for the campaign.

She said: 'I'm from Oban originally, and moved away before coming back. I remember Ganavan being a public place that people enjoyed.'

'I believe it should belong to the people. I've been coming



here since I was a wee girl, so I wanted to come along and show my support. It's a great facility.'

Judith Vajk, who runs a business at Loch Creran, also signed the petition, saying: 'It's not very welcoming to have to pay to park

SIGNING UP: Judith Vajk and Valerie Macarthur sign the petition as Doreen MacLeod (third from left) and Margaret Cooper (right) look on

in Ganavan. It should be free because it's a beach for people to use. Meanwhile, you get people parking at the Atlantis centre for a week for free, which is in the centre of Oban, leaving no parking for others using the centre's facilities.'

Cafe society comes at a cost in Stafford Street

OBAN traders claiming to be 'thousands of pounds down' due to the delay in the pedestrianisation of Stafford Street, can apply to the council for compensation.

Stafford Street shops such as The Whisky and Fine Wine Shop, Room 15, The Pokey Hat, Little Bay Cafe, The Wee Gallery and Kronks Take Away and Cafe have had to put up with construction works outside their doors since January.

Now some of the businesses are considering asking Argyll and Bute Council for compensation, claiming their trade has been affected by the delay.

Owner of ice cream parlour, The Pokey Hat, Alex MacKenzie, has concerns that not only has he lost trade, but he has been unable to afford the additional staff members he had planned to recruit.

An Argyll and Bute Council spokesman argued that the regeneration programme in and around Stafford Street will bring long-term benefits to the town.

He said: 'Our focus is on initiatives which will benefit the whole community in the longer

term by attracting visitors into the town, highlighting Oban as a great place to visit and to live.'

'Once all the regeneration work is complete, Oban will be an even more desirable destination.'

'We have every confidence that this major investment in the town, combined with the drive and determination of the community, is going to bring significant benefits for everyone.'

He pointed out the council was providing a level of financial assistance to Stafford Street traders with a one-year freeze on the cafe pavement licence fee.

He said: 'The license fee for those wishing to provide outdoor seating will be waived in the first year of operation across the council area.'

ADVERTORIAL

The future of home heating - can you afford to wait?

It's the year 2020 and nearly every home in your neighbourhood is benefiting from renewable heating, except you. Your neighbour's energy bills are now much lower than yours yet they can heat their homes for longer. They have full control over the individual temperatures in every room and can adjust this from anywhere in the world using their smartphone. Their home is more efficient and more affordable so the question is; in 2015, when there were excellent Government incentives to install and use renewable heating, why did you sit on the fence?

There are many advantages to changing to a renewable energy heating solution compared to relying on fossil fuels. Put simply, installing a renewable heating system adds comfort to your home, saves you money on your energy bills and puts you in control. Moving to renewable heating can also contribute to lowering the amount of carbon we emit into the atmosphere, reducing the effects of climate change and improving public health, so you can benefit twice. With a renewable energy system you can immediately start enjoying the benefits, improve your home and maximise its full potential.

Local installer, Renewables Now, works closely with customers to provide a renewable heating system that will suit the specific needs of each client. Changing to renewable heating is not a 'one size fits all' solution, so time and care is needed to ensure that your home's heating system is designed to perform just the way you want it to.

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COMMONWEALTH GAMES INSPIRES ARGYLL PUPILS TO MAKE THEIR MARK IN NATIONWIDE COMPETITION

STEVEN RAE
srae@obantimes.co.uk

TWO Dunbeg primary school pupils have won awards in a competition involving 20,000 children across Scotland.

Noah Hwang, 10, and Alik Aleynik, 11, came joint third in the primary seven category of the Global Citizen in the Making Awards.

The two Argyll pupils had to describe inspiring people from history, as part of the celebration of last year's Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, to win the prestigious award.

The pair received their awards from Scottish Olympic curler, Eve Muirhead, at a ceremony held last Tuesday, June 16, in the grand surroundings of Glasgow University's Bute Hall.

Noah, who is only in primary six but was entered into the older category, chose William Tyndale, an English scholar who was a leading figure in the Protestant Reformation and who translated the Bible into English.

He chose Tyndale after his father had told him about the influence the clergyman had on the course of English history.

Noah explained: 'He was very purposeful, and although the King didn't like the thought of the Bible being translated, he said: "That's not right" and carried on anyway, so everyone could read it and truly understand it, rather than have what was in it chosen for them. I'm a Christian myself, which was part of the reason I chose him.'

Alik opted for the father of English science, Sir Isaac Newton. The Dunbeg pupil said: 'He was a good person and really influential as he discovered gravity. Everything he did throughout his career was pretty amazing, if you read it all.'

'I really like mathematics too, which was one of the main reasons I chose him.'

Both Noah and Alik said the awards ceremony was a great day out, with Noah adding that he



INSPIRED: Dunbeg's primary pupils, with Noah, front left, and Alik, front right 15_t26dunbegcomp01

Dunbeg's very own 'history boys'

was nervous going up on stage.

Primary six teacher, Deirdre Fraser, who oversaw the project, said: 'The competition was about focusing on the values and qualities and looking at inspirational figures in history, and their "arc of destiny".'

'We asked the children what they want to do with their life, what their vision of a better world would be, and what they can do personally to bring that vision to life, and we had some amazing entries. Well done to Noah and Alik.'

Dunbeg primary school's head teacher, Sine MacVicar, added: 'The competition fits in perfectly with the ethos of the school - an ethos of citizenship.'

In total, the programme enabled 100,000 school pupils from around the Commonwealth to

use the inspiration of the games and consider their own aspirations and ambitions as global citizens, with the competition open to children from primary five to secondary four in Scotland.

One unexpected outcome of the competition for Dunbeg was

receiving a communication from Moulton Hall Methodist school in Trinidad, which had its own entries in the Trinidad and Tobago section.

Dunbeg primary is now hoping to forge further links with the Caribbean school.

TIMESLINE

Mountain rescue called into action

SIXTEEN mountain rescue team members were called out last weekend after a man got into difficulties at Beinn Dorain, Bridge of Orchy.

The 40-year-old, from the Bolton area, was walking with another man and woman, who contacted Oban mountain rescue at around 3pm on Sunday, June 21, after the man suffered a panic attack and became separated from the pair.

Ten members of Oban mountain rescue and six from Police Scotland's mountain rescue were deployed and eventually found the man, and took him back down the mountain. After being checked by ambulance staff, the three climbers left the area safely.

Competition call for Mòd pipers

PIPING competitions at the Royal National Mòd in Oban will take place on Saturday October 10 this year.

Both senior and juniors entries for any piping competitions must be submitted to An Comunn Gàidhealach by Friday, July 10.

Entries can be made online at 'ancomunn.co.uk'

There will be a Pìobaireachd competition for those under 19 years of age.

New planes take to island routes

NEW planes operating on the Scottish government's public service obligation routes will enter service next week.

Twin Otter DHC6-400 aircraft will be used on routes from Glasgow to Campbelltown, Tiree and Barra.

Talk the talk for Rockfield project

HISTORY is about to be made at The Rockfield Centre in Oban.

The former town centre primary school, which is earmarked to become a 'cultural hub', will ask people to talk about their school days and store them as a precious historical archive.

Oban Communities Trust (OCT), which now owns Rockfield, is embarking on its first project - an oral history of the B-listed school narrated by former pupils.

This oral history project entitled 'Memories Matter - time to share our stories' will focus on the heritage of both the school and Oban as told through the stories of former pupils attending the school between 1945 and 1955.

The Trust has appointed Cori Princell to carry out the work. Cori, from North Carolina, came to live in Oban in 2013 and brings a wealth of experience to the oral history work.

A freelance radio reporter, editor and producer, she is passionate about oral history, and has vast experience in this field.

She said: 'I think the oral history project is a wonderful way to honour the history of the former Rockfield school as it begins a new chapter as a community cultural and heritage hub.'

'Oral history is a powerful tool to connect people to the past and I think people in Oban are going to be learning some really interesting things about life in the town after the war and what it was like to be a child then.'

The impact of the Second



CONNECTING PEOPLE: Cori Princell will be in charge of the oral history project

World War on Oban is one of the key topics that will feature in the oral project.

With the school in the heart of the town, the project provides local folk the chance to recount their childhood memories following the aftermath of the war.

OCT is now looking for old photographs of the area and of the school building for the project.

It also wants pupils from 1945-55 and for individuals who would like to share their stories to contact it by email - heritage@obancommunitiestrust.org.uk or by writing to OCT at Linnthu House, Stevenson Street, Oban.

OCT described it as a real community project in which all

ages can be involved either to record their memories or simply to be involved in supporting activities.

Local people can also get in touch with Cori by phone on 07762756072.

The oral history project will be one of the first steps in creating an exhibition space in the building. Part of the project will be to establish a 'remembrance corner' to encourage further sharing and discussion of memories as part of the history and heritage development planned for the centre.

By starting with a small scale project and working with others including Argyll College, North Argyll Young Carers and Dunolite Projects, OCT hopes to pro-

vide a springboard for future oral history events and exhibitions in the centre.

Gordon McNab, chairman of OCT, said: 'We are very excited about this. The oral history project will capture and archive memories for future research.'

'This project activity will support and encourage inter-generational activity with new volunteering opportunities evolving throughout the work.'

'This first project starts our journey at the Rockfield Centre to celebrate heritage with our community and give a real sense of place to a newly-acquired community building. Please come forward and be part of the journey.'

ISLAY letter by Hugh Smith



STAGE PRESENCE: Eddie Reader with the Scottish National Jazz Orchestra

A tour de force from Eddi as she swings into action

IT WAS standing room only at the Ramsay Hall in Port Ellen where the 'Alba Songs of Scotland' island tour kicked off in the 'Queen of the Hebrides' on June 10.

Singing the songs was the vocalist and songwriter, Eddie Reader, the former lead singer with Fairground Attraction.

She was backed by the 13-piece Scottish National Jazz Orchestra led by the celebrated saxophonist and band founder member, Tommy Smith.

Eddie Reader, a three times Brits awards winner and single and album charts topper, has a particular affinity with the songs of Robert Burns and a number of his compositions were included in the 'Alba' suite.

All will culminate with a closing performance at Edinburgh's Queen's Hall on August 10.

Cantilena festival

Music with a difference will be heard when the chamber music group, Cantilena, hold their annual series of concert in various island venues from Sunday, July 5 to Friday, July 10.

The distilleries at Ardbeg, Lagavulin, Laphroaig and Bruichladdich will host concerts featuring music by Dvorak, Vivaldi and Rossini. The opening concert in the

St Columba Gaelic Centre will feature pianist, Haviland Willshire, playing compositions by Schubert, Ravel and Chopin.

The Cantilena festival is now in its 15th year and this time sees the Islay debut of professional guitarist, Allan Neave, who will be in concert at Ardbeg and Bruichladdich.

Pupils off to Peru

Sixteen pupils from Islay high school at Bowmore left the island on Saturday to embark upon their once-in-a-lifetime trip to Peru, where they will visit the glories of Machu Picchu.

On arrival, they spent a day in Lima, the country's capital, before setting off on a gruelling 22 hour bus journey to Cusco, the ancient capital of the Inca empire which sits at an altitude of 3,400 metres above sea level. They will spend three days here before moving on to work in an orphanage situated in the eastern district of the city.

Conditions at the orphanage are very basic and the island pupils will do all they can to improve various aspects of the orphans' lives. They will also have the opportunity to do some teaching and introduce a number of new activities to the disadvantaged children.

The six-day stay at the orphanage will also help the pupils to become fully acclimatised to the altitude and will stand them in good stead for the next stage of their journey which involves a five-day high altitude trek which sees them ascending 4,600 metres to the base of Machu Picchu.

They will spend a day exploring this outstanding UNESCO World heritage site, which is now the most visited tourist attraction in Peru.

This will be followed by another long eastward bus journey which will take them to Puerto Maldonado in the Amazon rainforest which they will explore over four days both on foot and by canoe.

Two days spent in the desert region south west of Lima will complete the islanders' challenging visit to South America.

This will be regarded as the adventure of a lifetime by the pupils.

It was made possible through the tireless fund-raising activities of the scholars and the generosity of the people of the Islay and Jura communities, who raised £43,000 for the venture and thereby ensured that all 16 pupils would be able to make this incredible journey.

Hugh Smith, 4, Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay PA43 7JX. Telephone: 01496 810 658

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Family rescued as yacht sinks

SIX people, including four children, were rescued from a sinking yacht near Tobermory at the weekend. The Lizzie May issued a mayday alert after it ran aground near Calve Island in the Sound of Mull at 11.41pm on Friday. The crew said the vessel was taking in water.

With Tobermory lifeboat not in service at the time, the Oban lifeboat was launched, taking the six people from the yacht safely to Tobermory, where they were met by waiting coastguards. The coastguard search and rescue helicopter from Inverness was also launched, providing light as the lifeboat rescued the uninjured passengers.

The lifeboat returned to the yacht with a pump and managed to refloat the vessel at around 6.30am on Saturday, after which it was taken to Tobermory for repairs.

A spokeswoman for Stornoway Coastguard, which co-ordinated the rescue, said there was a wind force of three on a slight sea when the accident happened.

Helping parents over baby death

SIMBA (Simpson's Memory Box Appeal) support will be held on Friday June 26 in the Regent Hotel in Oban.

The group is a supportive body for anyone who has suffered the loss of a baby during pregnancy.

Susan Simpson, Highland ambassador, said: 'Our groups are open to anyone who has been affected by the loss of a baby, at any stage of pregnancy or close to the time of birth, and we often have parents, grandparents, siblings and friends attending.'

For further information or to arrange to meet someone before the group session on Friday, please contact Susan on 07771358382.

A huge nett loss after fishnet tear

FISH farmer, Marine Harvest, has lost an estimated £240,000 worth of salmon at its Carradale site, after bad weather created a tear in the net allowing 16,000 fish to escape.

The escape, which happened on June 2, is the largest from a Scottish mainland marine salmon farm since 2009, when 59,000 fish escaped from a fish farm at Strone Point, near Dunoon.

'Hello mum and dad, this is your captain speaking'



TAKE OFF: (pictured above) George, Catherine and son Alan in the cockpit before the flight from Pula to Birmingham. (pictured right) Alan, as he appeared in the Oban Times in June 2006, when he passed his solo pilot's licence at the age of 16

STEVEN RAE
srae@obantimes.co.uk

A BENDERLOCH couple were flying high after their son brought them down to earth safely on their return from holiday in Croatia.

George and Catherine Hunter's flight of fancy took place on Saturday, June 13, when son Alan, who is a pilot for Thomson's Airways, took the controls of the Boeing 737, having rearranged his schedule without his parents' knowledge.

Alan, 25, who is a former pupil of Lochnell primary school and Oban high school, said: 'My parents wanted to book a holiday with Thomson and they asked me what destinations would suit them.'

'I suggested Croatia as I'd been there on holiday and advised that they book to go from Birmingham, where I'm based.'

'Once I knew what day they had booked, I looked at my schedule and realised it was my day off, so I managed to swap with the first officer who was on the Croatia flight originally.'

'They were sitting towards the back of the aircraft, so I walked down to say hello before we closed the doors and took off.'

'It was the first time I've flown a family member. Thankfully, I was pleased with my landing - otherwise they would never have let me live it down.'

Catherine, who works in the pharmacy at Oban's Lorn and

When the child whose shoelaces you have tied is flying the Boeing 737 with nearly 200 people on board...

George Hunter

Islands District General hospital, said: 'I couldn't believe it was actually happening, even when Alan gave the announcements over the PA that we were flying over the Alps.'

Dad George, a joiner, added: 'I'm not a good flier, and when the child whose shoelaces you have tied is flying the Boeing 737 with nearly 200 people on board, you cannot imagine the thoughts going through my mind.'

Alan was featured in the *Oban Times* in June 2006 when he passed his private pilot's licence at just 16-years-old, having been an aircraft enthusiast from a very early age.



TIMESLINE

Drinking session leads to arrest

AN OBAN man was arrested at the weekend after a drinking session got out of hand.

Police were alerted after they received reports of a 20-year-old man shouting, swearing and acting in an aggressive manner in Stevenson Street at 2.10am on Sunday, June 21.

Police were called and the drunk man acted in an aggressive manner as the police tried to reason with him. He was subsequently arrested.

He was charged with breach of the peace and assisting arrest.

A report has been sent to the procurator fiscal.

Police could smell illegal substance

AN OBAN man has been charged after being found in possession of a class-B drug.

The police stopped the 20-year-old man on George Street on Thursday, June 18, around 9.50pm, on an unrelated matter.

They they could smell cannabis on his clothing. A quantity of the drug was found in the man's pocket and he was charged under the misuse of drugs act.

Erratic driver had no car insurance

AN ABERDEEN man has been charged with driving without insurance.

Oban police stopped the 29-year-old man on the town's Esplanade at around 11.45pm on Friday, 19 June, because of his erratic driving. He is now the subject of a report to the procurator fiscal.

Call police about broken window

POLICE are appealing for information after a window at Achaleven Primary school in Connel was broken on June 19.

Phone PC Alison Simpson on 101 with any information.

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Thomas Cook Airlines

Stornoway

A PLANNED £3.5million refurbishment of Stornoway fire station and construction of a training unit at the local airport is due to get underway. The new facility will include three compartment fire behaviour training units, a two-storey breathing apparatus search training facility, a welfare de-briefing and classroom unit with BA maintenance capability and a wood storage facility. Scottish Fire and Rescue entered into a partnership with Highlands and Islands Airports Ltd (HIAL), whose personnel will also use the training centre, allowing more collaborative work with their colleagues at stations across the Western Isles. The new training centre is expected to be completed and ready by the end of the year.

Western isles

HIGHLANDS and Islands MSP, Mike MacKenzie, has written to energy secretary, Amber Rudd, asking her to urgently review the case for island interconnectors for Orkney, Shetland and the Western Isles. The connectors are used to link island electricity supplies generated by renewable energy projects to the mainland grid. Mr MacKenzie said: 'We are ten years ahead of the rest of the world in wave and tidal power research and many devices are reaching commercialisation, but this lead is now urgently threatened by the lack of interconnectors.'

THE MP for the Western Isles will be the first SNP politician to chair a committee in Westminster. Angus MacNeil MP for Na h-Eileanan an Iar (Western Isles) is to chair the influential Commons Committee on Energy and Climate Change. Mr MacNeil said: 'The committee has an important role to play in holding the government to account and pushing the UK commitments on internationally-agreed targets on renewables.'

Lomond

DUMBARTON police headquarters is safe for now – but the area's chief superintendent couldn't say for how long. Addressing the scrutiny committee of Argyll and Bute council, chief superintendent Helen Swann said the headquarters at Dumbarton would remain for the time being – but she could not say it was something that would survive 'forever and ever'. Councillor Maurice Corry raised his concerns about the closure of Dumbarton at the meeting recently and the knock-on effect its closure would have for people in the rural areas of Argyll and the isles. Mr Corry said: 'This is the problem – on the street and time and time again, people ask us what is happening with the headquarters – it is beyond a joke. We don't know, but it seems like no one really knows.'

Barcaldine

BARCALDINE-based company, Renewables Now, has announced that it has been awarded industry accreditation for renewable heating. The Innasol customer excellence programme was awarded to the firm after it successfully completed the renewable heating industry's inaugural accreditation scheme. The various training workshops completed cover subjects including product knowledge, renewable heating application and installation, service and maintenance.



SUCCESS: green-fingered Eigg primary school pupils received a national award for their gardening work from Toni Clark of RoWAN, right. Teacher Sue Hollands led the project throughout the year

Eigg

THE PUPILS of Eigg primary school became the first in Scotland to receive an award for gardening. Youngsters of the tiny island school worked together to grow fruit, vegetables and flowers and became the first in the country to gain the silver growing hub award. Toni Clark of Ross-shire waste action network (RoWAN), presented each pupil with a certificate to mark the achievement.



Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry

THE following is an abridged report made by the chairman at the recent Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry community council AGM. John Fotheringham said: 'This has been an interesting yet demanding year. 'We have been in constant dialogue and negotiation with Transport Scotland, BEAR Scotland and Highland council over issues relating to roads, transport and infrastructure in our community council area. This perseverance has brought some limited dividend with the

upgrading of road surfaces at Aonachan crossroads and within Spean Bridge and a start to the construction of a relief road to bypass the landslide at Glen Gloy. Even these successes have not been without difficulty and the premature degradation of the newly-resurfaced junction of the A82 and A86 brought further disruption which appears to be resolved at last. 'Yet there remains many issues unresolved on both the trunk and secondary roads and we have to continue to strive to persuade

Spean Bridge

MORE than £2,000 was raised at this year's Spean Bridge primary school fun night. Children enjoyed a bouncy slide, zorb balls, a raffle and trips round the school grounds in an agro cart. School staff thanked parents, local businesses and the rest of the community for their support in raising the £2,650.40.

FUN AND GAMES: youngsters enjoyed a ride in an agro cart

the chairman to retain both roles. The community council met 12 times this year. Each meeting identifies new problems for us to try to find solutions for and no doubt the coming year will bring both familiar and different problems, but I am sure the community council will continue to try to find acceptable solutions, as well as representing the views of our community fairly and objectively.' The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 7, at Spean Bridge primary school from 7pm.



SUPPORT: Fraya Holmes signing the Islay petition calling for better broadband

Islay

AN ISLAY postmaster has started a petition calling for improved broadband services on the island. Alastair Redman has so far collected 100 signatures demanding an improved service for the southern Rhinns of Islay and in the Port Askaig and Ballygrant areas. The petition will be sent to Highland and Islands Enterprise as well as Digital Scotland in an attempt to speed up the broadband services.

The Portnahaven postmaster said: 'It can take up to half an hour just to send an email which is very frustrating. 'It is painfully slow and ineffective. Some areas are substantially better than others, but in order to get a faster service I have to walk 10 minutes to another area where the broadband works quicker. 'As you can imagine, this does get very annoying and the petition has been started calling for the service to be improved.'

Fort William community council

THE abridged minutes of the Fort William community council May meeting: Dot Ferguson, ward manager for Highland council, discussed details of the plans for the development of the old secondary school on Achintore road. This will become council offices. A number of questions were asked regarding the architectural style of the extension and the finer details on the quality and type of materials to be used. It was agreed that the building needs to be finished to a high standard and comments and suggestions were made on changes to the exterior materials to be used. Hanging baskets: The town team are on target for placing hanging baskets. It was agreed that, where there are any gaps, Fort William community council baskets and silk flowers can be used.

Youngsters cycling and skateboarding in Cameron square and High street: Councillor Thomas MacLennan took this on board, but no update was available. The community council agreed there is a need for youngsters to have a safe place to enjoy biking and cycling, but the equipment previously provided next to the Nevis centre has been moved. To be followed up. Disabled parking: There has been abuse of disabled spaces in and around the town, hut parking in a blue badge area is now a civil offence rather than criminal offence. Parking attendants will not be empowered to deal with this until 2016. Cruachan hotel extension: Planning application discussed. Members had several concerns including access to the A82, parking, drainage problems and over-development. Neil Clark will raise concerns with the planning

service. Lundavra road: Parking in bus stop areas is continuing. Moray place: Fly tipping in one area is increasing and becoming an eyesore. Highland council or Lochaber housing association need to decide how to have it dealt with. Grange stores: A request has been made to introduce residents' permit parking around Grange stores and Grange road. Councillor Brian Murphy is to arrange a meeting to discuss the ongoing problem. Nevis bridge A82: It has been a year since the community council received communication from Transport Scotland that the original stones would be recovered from the river and replaced by September 2014, but this still hasn't been done. The secretary will check on progress. The June meeting was held in the Nevis centre on Tuesday at 7pm.

MORVERN lines

A tale of a Morvern otter

MENTION tame otters and most people immediately think of Gavin Maxwell, the Scottish naturalist and author, best known for his book 'Ring of Bright Water' in which he describes how, in 1956, he brought an otter he called 'Mijbil' from Iraq and raised it at 'Camusfearna', Sandaig, south of Glenelg. Maxwell wasn't the first to tame a wild otter on the west coast. Hector Currie, Morvern's post and ferryman from 1837 to 1881, had one which he called 'Doran'. History does not relate how 'Doran' was acquired, but when he arrived he was still a pup and not much bigger than a rat. 'Doran', the Gaelic word for otter, was treated with affection and was soon running about the house like a dog, responding to the whistle or word of command. It seems he was highly intelligent, scrupulously clean, fond of being petted and stroked, anxious to please and was never known to attack any human or another animal, except in self-defence. At that time, Loch Aline was teeming with fish of all kinds. His preference was salmon and sea trout when they were to be had, otherwise he would take haddock, whiting, lythe and saithe and occasionally, a golden bream or a large conger eel. The fish he brought ashore to begin with were, to be fair, for himself but, as he rarely took more than a bite or two from the shoulder or the back of the head of each, what he left the family had for their main meal. But 'Doran', with a little bit of training, learned to do something much better. After catching what he needed for himself he soon began fishing about the house. Whenever he was taken to the loch, he would bring a fish ashore for a word of thanks and encouragement. In the winter, when fish were scarce especially if the weather was cold and stormy, 'Doran' would live on oatcakes, barley scones, porridge, milk and even broth. Apparently he was frightened of seals. When he knew they were cruising about he looked cowed and uncomfortable and refused to go fishing, no matter how much he was encouraged. So often did this happen that Hector began shooting the seals to keep them away from his patch. Early one morning 'Doran' left the house to go fishing on his own account. When he hadn't returned at the usual time, Hector and his family, anxious for the safety of their pet, scoured the shore in all directions. They whistled and shouted for hours but there was no response. It wasn't until later in the day that a man on the opposite side of the loch was pulling in his net which had been set the night before, that poor 'Doran' was discovered dead. He had evidently been chasing a herring or a mackerel, for there were several of both in the mesh, and coming in contact with a net which he had never encountered before, he became entangled and his efforts to escape were in vain.

The golden eagle that flew away

THERE was a time, and not so very long ago, when it was legal to kill otters for their skins. This was done either by hunting them with a particular breed of white terrier or trapping them in places where they emerged from the sea to clean themselves in freshwater. The following story was popular in the Highlands and Islands many years ago. It was about a young gamekeeper who had seen an advert offering £1 each for otters' skins by a company in London specialising in mounting rare birds and animals. Weeks passed and he still hadn't received payment so an idea came to him. He sent them a telegram which read 'Caught a golden eagle. Will I send it dead or alive?' Three hours later he received an answer: 'Cheque forwarded; send eagle alive.' A few days later the gamekeeper got his two pounds and straight away replied, 'Golden eagle flew away.'



A pack of Skye otter terriers

Ancient terriers in the Highlands

TERRIERS have been around the Highlands and Islands for generations. The earliest written reference I have of them is in the 16th century when Bishop Lesley of Ross, a Roman Catholic clergyman and advisor to Mary Queen of Scots, described them as a 'dog of low height which, creeping into subterraneous burrows, routs out foxes, badgers, martins and wild cats from their lurking places and dens'. King James VI (1473-1513) sent 'Earth dogges', or 'terriers' as presents to the King of France and considered them so valuable they were to travel with a 'ship of war' to ensure they reached their destination. He also instructed that they were to be brought from Argyllshire so he obviously knew of the hunting qualities of these particular dogs.

Iain Thornber iain.thornber@btinternet.com

Kilchrenan

KILCHRENAN village hall committee held a very successful and entertaining barbecue on Sunday. Apart from a wonderful selection of salads and hamburgers, the entertainment was provided by a Jazz Band from Bergerac in the Dordogne. The band, below, are touring the west coast of Scotland and thanks to Maria Souep, they agreed to appear in Kilchrenan. After a great deal of persuasion by a member of the band, Audrey Paterson entertained them with a beautiful Gaelic song. It was indeed a lovely way to spend a Sunday afternoon. t25kilchren1no



Appin

Argyll riding club held its annual show at Corran farm, Clachan, on Saturday June 13. The supreme show champion was won by Kathryn Henderson from Appin on her horse Burnbank Millennium (Milly) pictured above.

Campaigners win Tinkers Heart battle

CAMPAIGNERS and an MSP have won the battle over the future of Tinkers Heart, following a long-running push to have its status officially recognised by Historic Scotland. Argyll and Bute MSP, Michael Russell, has voiced his approval over Historic Scotland's decision to reverse its previous refusal and confirm Tinkers Heart as a monument of national importance. The heart-shaped collection of stones near Cairndow was initially downgraded, but following a concerted campaign by the

travellers' community, Historic Scotland Director of Heritage, Barbara Cummins, has now confirmed Tinkers Heart is a site of high cultural significance. Tinkers Heart, which overlooks Loch Fyne, is a pattern of quartz stones which have lain since the 1700s and travellers have used the site as a traditional wedding place, or a spot to bless children and even to remember the dead. The disused crossroads is now on private land, but its new status as a national monument means it can now be restored and pre-

served for future generations. Author and musician, Jess Smith, who led the campaign for re-grading on behalf of the travelling community and whose petition to the Scottish Parliament attracted more than 1,000 signatures, said: 'This is fantastic news and recognises not just the relevance and value of the site, but also the important role travelling people have played in Scotland's national story for generations. I am grateful to all those who have supported the case.'

Tinkers Heart is positioned in a field next to the A815, opposite to the junction with the B839. MSP Mike Russell said: 'I am delighted by the change of heart of Historic Scotland.' Historic Scotland said the decision took place after a review of the case. A report stated: 'Tinkers Heart is a site of high cultural significance. It is a rare example of a permanent physical monument for Scottish travellers and holds a high significance in the consciousness of gypsies/travellers and the people of Argyll as a symbol of their heritage.'

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RELATIVES CONDEMN LATEST DELAY AS 'SHAMEFUL' BUT NHS HIGHLAND SAYS CENTRE WILL OPEN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

Care home remains closed as another deadline looms



Corpach in Colour celebrates 10 years

Members of Corpach in Colour celebrated ten years of brightening up the Lochaber village this week. The group has spent the last decade organising flower displays and shows no signs of slowing down. From left: Margaret MacIntyre, Margaret Simpson, both founding members, Nicola Muir and Louise Pescod

Thieves struck twice but Canna islanders fight back

BOTH shops on the isle of Canna were robbed at the same time, in the first theft since the 1960s.

Last week the Oban Times reported that thieves had raided the community shop on the Small Isle, which works on an honesty box system, and stole sweets, toiletries, hats and groceries.

It has since been revealed Canna's other

shop, the newly-opened Hebridean Beauty, was also raided on the same night.

But islanders say they will not let the thieves win and don't plan to install CCTV or lock the shops at night.

Colin Irvine, chairman of the Canna community development trust, runs Hebridean Beauty. He said: 'We haven't decided for sure yet, but nobody seems to be keen on

CCTV or locking the door. If we lock up at night we lose business from anyone who needs things at night and the fishermen don't usually arrive until the evening, so it's no use to them. It would be a shame to let the people who did this win.'

An online fundraising page has also been set up to reimburse the loss from the theft and more than £500 has been raised so far.

EMMA CRICHTON
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MALLAIG care home, the Mackintosh Centre, looks set to miss another date for re-opening in what has been called 'shameful' and 'disgusting' behaviour.

At the end of April, Tracy Ligema NHS Highland area manager for the west, said the centre would be open in 10 weeks, following long-running recruitment problems.

But as that deadline looms closer, there have been no signs of the home opening and former residents remain 42 miles away at Inverneis House in Fort William.

The eight-bed Mackintosh Centre closed in July last year amid allegations of poor practice and, at the time, the health board said it would re-open in four to six weeks. But the doors remain closed almost a year later.

A spokeswoman from NHS Highland confirmed the care home would not re-open next week, the end of the 10 week period, saying additional recruitment caused a further delay.

A source close to families of residents, who asked not to be named, said they have received no updates.

He said: 'The 10 weeks we were promised in April is up next week and there's been no sign of life. This is what we have been going through since early on in the process. We're not getting any information. It's shameful the way they're treating residents and families, shameful and disgusting. These people don't have a lot of years left with their family members and the years they do have shouldn't be spent like this.'

'Every time we speak to someone from the NHS we ask

“Shameful and disgusting behaviour.”
Family spokesperson

for regular updates and every time we get nothing. There's no confidence left. We won't believe it's re-opening now until it actually happens.'

Allan Henderson, Highland councillor for Caol and Mallaig, said he believed things were 'moving in the right direction' but said he was expecting more communication between NHS Highland and residents' families. He said: 'All I have been told is things are moving in the right direction. I haven't been told anything to make me believe otherwise. In saying that, I would have appreciated, as would everyone else, an update from NHS Highland, just to reassure us that it's all on track.'

The NHS Highland spokeswoman said: 'The centre is still closed, but work continues with staff training and we hope to have some more information on this in the coming weeks. We continue our work to get it open as soon as we can.'

The centre closed when some staff members were suspended pending investigations of alleged poor practice. The investigation has since been completed, but reopening was delayed when newly-recruited staff resigned due to daily commutes of 100 miles for training in Fort William.

TIMESLINE

Sheriff remands Fort teenager

A TEENAGER has been remanded in custody after he was accused of showing police officers gas cylinders, deodorant and other materials designed to form 'the appearance of an explosive device'.

Jack Salter, 17, from Fort William, appeared in the town's sheriff court on Monday charged with behaving in a threatening and abusive manner on Friday, June 19, which caused Ross Place, Upper Achintore, to be evacuated.

Sheriff Richard Davidson heard the accused, of 27 Ross Place, allegedly showed police officers two gas cylinders, a golf club, a scarf, a cloth and deodorant 'arranged to form the appearance of an explosive device' at his home.

The court also heard the occupants of 32 neighbouring properties had to be evacuated. Salter made no plea or declaration and was remanded in custody until his next hearing.

A date for a further hearing had not been set when the Oban Times went to print. Salter also appeared in connection with four road traffic offences.

Musicians take to stage for concert

SOME of Lochaber's finest young traditional musicians will celebrate the area they grew up in with a new concert, Travelling Hills and Glens.

Tutor, Deirdre Beck, said: 'The idea for the concert was heavily influenced by the fact that several of the young musicians with whom I have worked will soon be embarking on new pathways in their lives.'

The event, in the Ben Nevis hotel tonight (Thursday) starts at 7.30pm. Entry is free, with voluntary donations going to Lochaber music school.

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PIECE OF HISTORY: Bill Grant, one of the museum's founding members, and Jackie Watt, who first volunteered in 2011 at the age of 17, prepare to cut the cake with World War One bayonets 16_t26warpeace01

Museum guests celebrate a piece of living history

OBAN's War and Peace Museum celebrated its 20th anniversary recently.

Around 30 people, mainly past and present volunteers, made up the guest list on Thursday, June 18 in the town's Corran Halls.

Alison Palmer, who is the director of the museum, said: 'We were deciding who to invite

today, and considered a VIP guest speaker.

'But we quickly came to realise that the real VIPs are the guests here today, the people who invest around 7,500 hours of their own time, every year, just to keep the museum open.'

Opened on April 3, 1995, at the old Oban Times building on the

Esplanade, the museum houses a collection of artifacts and photographs depicting the rich cultural history of Oban and its people, during times of conflict and peace.

Guests were treated to refreshments and a birthday cake, provided by local patisserie Bossards.

It's so beautiful but it's also very cold

AMERICAN students enjoyed a sailing day around Kerrera last week as part of their 23rd exchange visit. A dozen students from Laurinburg, North Carolina and Oban High School were treated to a day at sea by Oban sailing club.

American Student Madison Dwyer said: 'It is completely different from Laurinburg. We have to drive four hours to see the mountains and a couple of hours to the beach, so this is very different. It's so beautiful, but it's very cold since temperatures back home at the moment are in the high 30s.'

Students have enjoyed an action-packed schedule, which included visiting Dunstaffnage Castle, Mull and Iona.



WARM WELCOME: American and Oban students celebrate being back on dry land

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ARDNAMURCHAN PROVINCIAL MOD



A lively and enjoyable spirit

ARDNAMURCHAN mòd may justifiably be called the 'conversational mòd'. Its lively and enjoyable spirit moved throughout the competitions and included long debates between adjudicators and competitors and their tutors.

Music adjudicator Raymond Bremner gave helpful advice on facial expressions when singing Gaelic songs, while John Archie Morrison almost got himself into a stramash with two tutors over the life-long question: how should one sing about love?

Held last Friday, June 19, with competitors from all the Ardnamurchan peninsula schools

plus the Mull mòd club and Mallaig primary school, it was an exciting day for everyone who attended.

Organisers said: 'We had a good entry number of adults and a senior choir. We were particularly pleased to have a newly-formed group of under-13-years local competitors, Oigrìdh Shuaineart, who took part in oral, solo singing, duets and choral competitions. 'The day went well and everyone seemed to enjoy it. Thanks go to everyone for their help and support and especially to those who have the responsibility of training our young people.'

Ardgour school pupils enjoyed the mod 16_t26ardmod01



CONCENTRATION: Acharacle primary school pupils take part in Ardnamurchan mòd 16_t26ardmod02



SINGERS: Kilchoan primary school choir hit all the right notes 16_t26ardmod05



Some Kilchoan primary school pupils also took part in the solo singing. They are pictured with tutors Riona Whyte, back left, and Janet Campbell, both Mull 16_t26ardmod07



SMART: Oigrìdh Shuaineart 16_t26ardmod03



ON STAGE: Burach, winners of the adult competition 16_t26ardmod17



ALL SMILES: the Henderson siblings from Mallaig: Catherine, Donald and Grace 16_t26ardmod06



Above: Lochaline primary school 16_t26ardmod09

Left: Comunn Gaidhenach Mhuile 16_t26ardmod08



16_t26ardmod10

16_t26ardmod11

16_t26ardmod12

16_t26ardmod13

16_t26ardmod14

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Pensioner fraudulently claimed £24,000

A PENSIONER who lied on pension credit forms to receive more than £24,000 he was not entitled to has been told he could face jail.

Charles Wright, of Larch Cottage in Strontian, told the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) he only had savings of just over £4,000 and owned no properties, despite owning two houses in Fort William which he later sold for £293,000. This allowed the 72-year-old to fraudulently benefit from £24,340.52 between March 2008 and June 2012.

He admitted the charge in Fort William sheriff court on Monday, after previously pleading not guilty at earlier hearings.

Fiscal deputy, Kelly Bruce, told the court Wright had 'a number of bank accounts' as well as his two properties, which he has since gifted to relatives. She said: 'The accused failed to inform the DWP that he had property and capital which had not been disclosed in the application for pension credit. He had a bank account with an excess of £9,000, but had said on the form he had savings of just over £4,000. A further bank account had in excess of £16,000.'

Defending solicitor, Alistair McGarvey, said Wright admitted he had taken a 'cavalier' approach to his finances. He said: 'He received bad advice from an accountant. Mr Wright believed he had the right to have his state pension topped up, but he knows he took what he described to me as a cavalier approach.'

Sheriff Richard Davidson deferred sentencing for social work reports, but said he was considering a jail sentence: 'The bottom line is if you hadn't abused the system you would not have received this money. There is no other word to describe this than fraud. I must warn you I can't rule out imprisonment.'

Sports centre group 'still optimistic' over funding

EMMA CRICHTON
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THE GROUP behind the campaign to bring a new indoor sports centre to Fort William say they are 'still optimistic' despite a further three-month delay for funding from Highland council.

The local authority has pledged £850,000 in principle to Lochaber sports association (LSA) towards the multi-use hall and a final decision was supposed to be made in March.

This was postponed until the full council meeting to be held today (Thursday).

But when the papers for the

meeting were released on Friday it showed the funding would not be discussed at the meeting. This means it will be a further three months until September before a decision will be made.

Jane Blanchard, chairwoman of LSA, said she remains positive that the £1.47 million project will go ahead.

She had previously worried that council delays could jeopardise the £500,000 pledged in principle by SportScotland, but believes this funding is secure.

She said: 'I'm still optimistic because I've spoken to SportScotland and they have assured me they are

hanging in there with us. It's slightly disappointing, but it's understandable because the new council has only been formed for a couple of weeks.

'It's only a delay, not a setback. It will only be a setback if the funding is rejected.

'In the meantime, we're working very hard to make sure when the debate for funding does come to council, we can show the facility at its full potential.'

Ms Blanchard added that the association has been working hard to make progress on other areas while waiting for the funding, including applying for a further £100,000 grant from

the Robertson trust. She said: 'The application will be going to trustees within the next month so if that is approved it will plug the final gap and we should be ready to get started.'

The facility, which was granted planning permission in March, will be sited at Lochaber high school, next to the artificial pitch and two grass pitches. It will encourage schools, sports clubs and the wider community to train all year round, whatever the weather.

But LSA hopes it can also be used for community groups outside the sporting world to help everyone in Lochaber.

Ms Blanchard explained: 'In a way the delays have been a good thing because it has given us time to consult with a number of different groups.'

'We've been speaking to people from the NHS, as well as those who deal with alcoholism, health and wellbeing and a whole other range of issues.'

'Every single one thinks this is a facility with the potential to work for them as well as sports groups.'

A Highland council spokeswoman said: 'The council is appraising the project with the intention of a report going to a future council meeting.'



REMEMBRANCE: Ewen Cameron, middle, laid a wreath with Roddy Mainland of Lochaber local history society to a tune by his nephew and piper, Sandy Cameron 21_26waterloo02

Stepping out in memory of Lochaber's Waterloo fallen

THE EFFORTS of people from Lochaber who fought and died in the battle of Waterloo were remembered 200 years on at commemorations marking the end of the conflict.

Crowds came together for a memorial walk from Kilmallie hall last Tuesday, organised by Lochaber local history society, followed by a service at the Colonel John Cameron memorial in Corpach, to remember the Fassifern soldier who was shot dead at the battle of Quatre Bras, just two days before the battle of Waterloo.

Before setting off on the walk, led by Lochaber schools pipe band, pupils of Banavie primary school gave a rousing rendition of 'Boney was a Warrior'.

Reverend Richard Corbett rededicated the monument before Ewen Cameron of Glen Nevis laid a wreath.

Mr Cameron's nephew, Sandy Cameron, piped 'Flowers of the Forest'.



ROUSING: Lochaber schools pipe band led the Waterloo walk through Kilmallie 21_26waterloo01

Another Lochaber man prominent during the battle was major general, Alexander MacDonald of Glencoe, who was remembered at a commemoration at All Saints church in Warwickshire at the weekend.

Major General MacDonald fought at the battle of Quatre Bras and two days later commanded the horse artillery at the battle of Waterloo.

Although from Glencoe, he died unmarried at Leamington Spa, where he was remembered during the commemorations.

TIMESLINE

Walker missing for more than a week

CONCERNS are growing for a walker who has been missing in the West Highlands for more than a week.

Stephen Russell was reported missing from Skye but was last seen at the A'Chuil bothy in Glen Dessary, near Spean Bridge, on Sunday June 14, when he said he planned to walk to Fort William.

The 43-year-old, below, is an experienced hill walker described as five feet 10 inches tall, slim built with a shaved head and beard.

A police spokesman said he usually wears a beanie hat and waterproof jacket and carries walking gear.

The spokesman added: 'Information would suggest Stephen was in the Fort William area around June 16 or 17, but has now moved on and may be walking either the West Highland Way towards Glasgow or the Great Glen Way towards Inverness. Anyone with information on Stephen's whereabouts or who believe they may have seen him is urged to contact us on 101.'



Dog show in aid of greyhound trust

A CHARITY dog show is to be held in Fort William to raise money for retired greyhounds.

Lochaber and district canine society's companion dog show in the Nevis Centre on Tuesday, July 7, will feature categories including puppies, Gundogs, veteran and waggie tail, with all proceeds going to Skye's retired greyhound trust.

Doors open at 6.30pm and free microchipping will be available on the night.



FACING THE PUBLIC: the panel of BBC Radio Scotland's Big Debate, which was broadcast live from Fort William on Friday 21_26debate01

Radio debate comes to Fort William

THE PEOPLE of Fort William had the chance to quiz public figures about the issues of the day when Radio Scotland came to town.

Gordon Brewer hosted the weekly programme the Big Debate from Duncansburgh Mackintosh church hall

on Friday and welcomed the Oban Times editor, Willie Mack, and Peter Murray, Media Scotland's outreach manager for the Media Trust.

Also on the panel, in front of a live audience, were Highlands and Islands MSPs Jamie McGrigor and Dave Stewart,

along with Ian Blackford, MP for Ross, Skye and Lochaber.

The group took questions from the audience and discussed various current affairs including wind farms, NHS Highland and representation of rural areas.

Salmon farm manager leaps away with award

A FEMALE salmon farm manager has won a national award for her work in Lochaber.

Rosie Curtis of Marine Harvest is one of only two female fish farm managers in the country and showed she won't be outdone by her male counterparts when she picked up the prize for best farm manager at the Scottish marine aquaculture awards.

Ms Curtis, who also chairs the West Ardnachurchan community council and volunteers as watch manager for her local retained firefighting team, manages a team of eight at Camus Glas salmon farm on Loch Sunart.

Alan Sutherland, managing director of Marine Harvest Scotland, said: 'We are delighted that Rosie's success has been recognised at such a prestigious awards ceremony. Her hard work and dedication are second to none and we congratulate her on



'SECOND TO NONE': Marine Harvest's Rosie Curtis won a national award for her work

her award.' Marine Harvest also picked up the stewardship award at the ceremony for a joint project on the use of cleaner fish with Scottish Sea Farms.

Pensioner with hip break left in pain for three days

A PENSIONER was left in pain for days waiting on surgery for a hip fracture because there were no hospital beds available.

An apology was issued by NHS Highland following an investigation which revealed the male patient, named only as Mr C, struggled to recover from the operation because of the high dosage of pain relief medication he received while waiting for a hospital bed.

Mr C fell in July 2013 fracturing his hip. He was taken to his local hospital and was due to be transferred to Raigmore in Inverness for surgery but the elderly man was left on high levels of morphine for two days while waiting for a bed. It was three days before Mr C got his operation and his wife said this resulted in poor recovery and a decline in health. Mr C died in May 2014, less than a year after the incident.

Mrs C complained to the board of NHS Highland,

resulting in an investigation by the Scottish public services ombudsman's office which last week said the patient 'was not prioritised appropriately'.

Elaine Mead, chief executive of NHS Highland, said: 'I want to publicly apologise on behalf of NHS Highland for our failure to treat this patient within a reasonable time. A review is being undertaken on our procedures for the transfer of emergency trauma patients to Raigmore Hospital.'

The ombudsman's report highlights four recommendations to be implemented by NHS Highland, including providing evidence procedures are in place to deal with emergency trauma patients, carrying out an audit of the last 50 patients admitted to Raigmore for hip fracture surgery, bringing the case to the attention of Raigmore's bed management team and apologising to Mrs C for the failures.

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Viewpoint

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8216

As with most industrial disputes, it is the people in the middle who get caught in the crossfire. A striking example of this is the breakdown in talks this week between ferry operator CalMac and its employees, which threatens widespread disruption and chaos for many passengers planning to travel to and from the islands over the next three days.

While not disregarding the rights and wrongs of the dispute and dismissing the depth of feeling between the two parties, the ferries provide a vital lifeline to the island communities. Islanders depend on CalMac

and its crews to deliver food for the household table and basic materials for business and trade. These are absolute necessities of everyday living.

Yet, here we are again, in the 21st century reverting to a form of industrial relations that should have disappeared with the last plumes of acrid smoke belching out of post-war factories.

Surely, it is not beyond the wit of man to come up with a reasonable way to resolve disputes, especially when they involve crucial services which affect the lives of ordinary people caught in the middle of a maelstrom.

Days gone by - discharging coal for Mull estate, late 1940s/early 1950s



This week's flashback photograph was submitted by reader David MacKenzie of Invergordon. It features men discharging coal from the Inverloy at Port Ronach for the Torloisk Estate, Mull, around the late 1940s/early 1950s. Pictured are Hugh MacKinnon with the horse and cart; Colin Fletcher; Roddie McRae, Neil MacColl and David MacKenzie. Digital versions of flashback photos for The Oban Times can be sent to editor@obantimes.co.uk or prints sent in to Editor, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB. Anyone who wishes a print returned should include a stamped, addressed envelope.

Lochgilthead Armed Forces Day fantastic

Sir, My family and I had a fantastic time at Lochgilthead's Armed Forces Day, having travelled over from Islay.

The event was very well-organised and attended. It was good to see so many veterans marching along with an incredible number of cadets. It is encouraging to see such strong support for our military personal both past and present.

There was also a number of different Armed Forces charities in attendance including Poppy Scotland which is the leading charity supporting ex-servicemen and women and their families in Scotland. A big thanks to everyone who organised and supported this fantastic event.

Alastair Redman, Islay.

Back off - age and experience count

Sir, How many governments do we need in our lives?

Presently we have one in Edinburgh, one in London and one in Brussels. And to think we managed with only one around 40 years ago. This means we are now paying for three governments to run our affairs.

The above is most likely our number one problem and does not help in the economic climate. This week I heard Brussels is going

to propose legislation to try and force men to take a bigger share in housework. In my book that's interfering with people's private lives.

Now everywhere I look and every item of news I read are intoxicated with agencies trying to take away our personal liberties as if we are incapable of looking after ourselves or making a decision.

Well they can back off. We, especially folk of my age and experience, can tell them a few things about reality of life. I do not need any government or agency to tell me what to do, what to eat or drink or, especially, what to say, or decide upon.

Many people these days are so brainwashed into a secular system they are quite willing to sell their souls if there is government money available somewhere along the line.

So maybe it's time to get off the whining, take-you-by-the-hand socialist agenda. Stop misleading people, and less harassment, even though your jobs and security may depend on it. Sadly, the above systems are of no real moral value in our communities. How much would this help our economic woes? A whole lot in my book.

Angus Campbell, South Uist.

Carers UK backs Keep Me Posted campaign

Sir, There are more than six million carers in the UK, doing an amazing job. Whether your caring role comes as a

surprise or whether the needs of the person you care for have changed, carers often have to pick up the household's financial management at little notice.

This is hard enough, but without a paper trail, it is nigh on impossible. Until relatively recently, someone taking on a caring role could run somebody else's finances pretty straightforwardly, with the appropriate authorisations. Even if you were caring for someone whose filing system wasn't up to scratch, you could gauge the state of accounts pretty clearly from the regular paperwork companies were sending out.

But the last decade has seen a wholesale change in how service providers communicate. Banks have relentlessly advocated switching people to online accounts, sometimes automatically. Energy companies lure people in with the promise of lower bills if they don't have to send out a paper copy.

When you're caring for someone, the last thing you need is additional complications, or worse, the thought of having services cut off if you don't pay the bill that you now can't readily access. And no-one wants to be quizzing a frail or sick dependent about their passwords and service providers.

The Keep Me Posted campaign, supported by Carers UK, wants everyone to have the choice to receive bills and statements on paper if that's what they prefer. Judith Donovan CBE, chairman, Keep Me Posted.

Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON
robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk

Jokes are on Donnie

ESTEEMED Leodhasach, Donnie 'Maroot' MacLeod, will be doing his bit for charity once again this Friday night when he launches his third charity joke book at 10pm in the Park Bar.

His first book was entitled 'Awful Joke Book', his second was called 'More Awful Jokes' and his latest offering to the West Highland jokes canon is, surprisingly enough, called 'Even More Awful Jokes'.

All proceeds from all the Awful Jokes series are shared between the Bethesda care home in Stornoway, Harris House in Tarbert, Tagsa Uibhist in Benbecula and Cobhair Bharragh in Castlebay.

Popular Oban band, Ceol an Aire, will be on stage in the Park on Friday night with Donnie telling a few jokes live during their set.

Donnie said: 'Despite my efforts, this is guaranteed to be a great night in the Park.'

I have written about Donnie in the Glasgow Letter before when I covered the 50th 'Care for a Ceilidh' evening, a scheme he set up to use musicians in Glasgow to perform at ceilidhs for residents of the city's care homes.

I also wrote about his famous successful fundraising effort to break the Guinness Word Record for the highest number of jokes told in an hour. Donnie spent that whole week on the phone to enthused journalists and radio presenters from around the world. He was literally telling jokes on national radio stations across the globe from Melbourne to Los Angeles and even Radio nan Gaidheal.

His joke book launch on Friday night is unlikely to attract quite as much attention, but Donnie is still bound to raise an incredible amount of money for so many great causes and have plenty of fun in the process.

To whet the appetite for Friday night, here is a selection of some of the best - or worst, depending on how you look at it - jokes from the Awful Jokes series - including a few sneak peaks from the latest edition:

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL
ailean@obantimes.co.uk

CHUIR mi seachad beagan làithean eadar an Fhraing 's a' Bheilg a' tadhal air cuid de làraich cogaidh agus cladhan a' Chogaidh Mhòir agus saoilidh mi nach b' urrainn do neach sam bith sin a dhèanamh gun bhuaidh a bhith aige orra.

Fo sgàile chiumhneachain eireachdail tha cladhan air an gleidheadh gu snasail le Coimisean Uaighean Cogaidh a' Cho-fhlaitheis, le fluraichean breagha dathte a' fàs ris na sreathan cothrom de chlachan-cinn gheala.

Ach 's iad na faclan a tha snaighte air na clachan-cinn sin as druidhtiche buileach, le fianais air balaich nach robh sa mhòr-chuid ach mu fhichead bliadhna, agus cuid nach robh fìu 's sin fhèin!

Miltean air an ainmeachadh agus miltean eile gun ainmean idir ach, mar a tha na clachan-cinn ag ràdh, aithnichte do Dhia.

Canar Baile an t-Sith ri Wypers andiugh ach chunnaic agus dh'fhuiling am baile seo air taobh an iar na Beilge sgrìos cho brùideil anns a' Chogaidh Mhòir is nach robh togalach air fhàgail gun mhilleadh! Tha e na thomhas air na thachair



RECORD BREAKER: Donnie had a packed Park Bar in stitches at his last joke-telling evening

What does CalMac use to wash their dishes? Ferry Liquid. Why were there ghost busters in the Park Bar? They were looking for spirits.

How do planes fly to Portree? Through Skye.

What is the best-selling pastry in the Hebrides? He-bridies

Who is the best goalkeeper for a team of Gaelic speakers playing in blue? Andy Gorm.

A weaver explained the secret of Harris Tweed to me. It's a great yarn.

I hear Apple have made something called a tablet. They obviously don't know the Park Bar has been making that for years.

And, my personal favourite: What Biblical place name best describes Robert Robertson's Oban Times Glasgow Letter? Babble On!

What's on

Wednesday June 24: Seisean-ciùil: An Lochran's Traditional Music Session at the Lismore. Thursday June 25: Gaels Le Cheile Scottish and Irish Gaelic singing workshop at Coffee and Craic. Friday June 26: Donnie Maroot's Awful Joke Book launch and Ceol an Aire in the Park Bar.

Pub scene

Park Bar: Thursday June 25: Session. Friday June 26: Ceol an Aire. Saturday June 27: Horo. Sunday June 28: Trail West. Islay Inn: Friday June 26: Black Velvet. Saturday June 27: Parting Glass. Wednesday July 1: quiz night.

Ailean Caimbeul

Press policy

WE AT The Oban Times endeavour to ensure that all our reports are fair and accurate and comply with the Editors' Code of Practice set by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). We realise, however, that mistakes happen from time to time.

If you think we have made a significant mistake and you wish to discuss this with us, please let us know as soon as possible by any of the three methods: emailing editor@obantimes.co.uk; telephoning the editor on 01631 568046; writing to the Editor at The Oban Times,

Crannog Lane, Lochavullin estate, Oban, PA34 4HB.

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We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

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The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and

postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number is also required for verification.

Anonymous letters or those supplied without a

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Crossword grid with clues: Across 7 Occasion to celebrate a quarter century (6,7), 8 Alleviate (8), 9 Comfortable (4), 10 Cooperative action (7), 12 Side road (5), 14 Box for sound and vision (5), 16 Suffocate (7), 19 Always after even (4), 20 Pain (8), 22 Blossoming (13)

Down 1 Old Italian unit (4), 2 Slender (6), 3 Handle (7), 4 As a colour could be (5), 5 Elegantly (6), 6 Dining companion (8), 11 Giving (8), 13 Stalemate (7), 15 Finally (6), 17 Prickly plant (6), 18 Leaf beet (5), 21 Pawn (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION crossword grid with answers: FLEXORS, ROSS, IN, LMB, BURT, OMI, I, OVE, RB, UR, DEN, ING, UR, L, E, PH, RUG, WINS, I, DE, OUT, E, G, S, E, F, L, ANN, U, A, L, S, M, I, T, H, Y, S, C, T, S, I, H, SKY, R, O, C, K, E, T, E, B, B, U, E, U, A, L, O, M, I, X, E, D, B, L, E, S, S, I, N, G, I, A, L, S, I, N, G, D, O, T, T, Y, S, C, E, N, E, R, Y

Young sailors on trip of a lifetime

THIRD year Kinlochleven high school students embarked on a seven day sailing trip around Scottish islands.

Pupils Amanda Fairman and Tammy Cooper submitted this report:

Most people know what sailing is but have never been on a proper voyage. But that has changed for the Kinlochleven S3 pupils. From May 11 until May 17 these pupils went on a seven-day trip around some of the Scottish islands.

The most memorable days were Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday. The first day was quite nerve-racking - yet exciting. We drove to Greenock and got straight on the boats from there. We were greeted by our first mate. She directed us to The Alba Venturer, our vessel for the week. The boat was looked very big from the harbour. After a tour around the boat and meeting the other four members of the crew, we motored to Holy Loch.

Tuesday could only be described as the day of 1,000 tacks. We sailed to Arran, but during the trip the weather was not nice. We sailed against force eight winds - that meant a lot of sea sickness. Oh yes, it was not pretty. Out of the 11 people in our group on the boat only five were not physically sick - but the minute we went below decks felt vile.

We learned how hard sailing could be at points, but the day still was enjoyable if you were above decks and not spewing your guts up. We ended up getting used to the boat by Thursday and could go below deck (when you were off watch) for an hour or so to rest.

On Friday, we sailed to Tobermory and loved the coloured houses, reminiscing about our memories of the children's TV show, Balamory (though we were devastated when we learned there was no pink castle). The next day we were allowed to leave the boat for the first time in six days to room around the village and get showers. That was a blessing, we had no idea how much we missed being clean and fresh. The rest of our time was spent in a cute tea shop.

That was our favourite day and favourite part of the trip, being able to sit down feeling fresh with a lovely cup of tea, chatting to friends.

In the evening, we had a party to celebrate our last night. The first mate got a J cloth, ripped it and tied it round her head, stating that she was a ninja. Of course almost everyone joined in, making black belts out of black bin bags and drawing two black lines on each others' cheeks. We then continued with party games. From that we figured who were the sore losers in our year, but we mustn't name names.

On the last day we got back to Oban, said goodbye to the boat, took selfies and waved goodbye to the Alba Venturer. We can speak for everyone in our year group when we say we enjoyed this trip.

It was a once in a lifetime experience and it was highly valued. We will remember it always and be grateful for the opportunity. We wish good luck to next year's Kinlochleven high school third years who will go on this adventure in 2016.



ADVENTURE: Kinlochleven pupils spent seven days sailing round Scottish islands

Air cadets fly away with top award

LOCHABER air cadets have won the top award in the Highlands for the first time in more than 30 years.

The 1730 squadron received the John Hinshelwood trophy for the best achievements in the Highland wing.

The trophy was last brought to Lochaber in 1984 and was presented by air training corps commander, Christine Copey. Commander Copey also presented individual medals and badges to cadets for achievements in sport and first aid.



Lochaber air cadet, Emily Hain, receives the John Hinshelwood trophy for achievement from Christine Copey, Highland air training corps commander

Lead college role for Lochaber man

LOCHABER'S John Hutchison is to take on a lead role with West Highland College UHI.

The justice of the peace, who received an MBE in 2014, has been named the new chair-designate and will take up his role at the end of this month.

Mr Hutchison, from Banavie, near Fort William, said he is 'delighted' to join the college board.

He added: 'I had a link with the former college in its early days when I was Lochaber area manager with Highland council and I have watched with some



LEAD ROLE: John Hutchison

admiration as it has grown and consolidated with the mergers, yet remains rooted firmly in the West Highland community.

'We need to see equality of opportunity in education across the country and it will be a great privilege to serve the West Highlands in this new role.'

Lydia Rohmer, principal and chief executive of West Highland College, welcomed Mr Hutchison.

She said: 'John's vast professional experience of working with and empowering rural communities matches the

ambition of our college to serve individuals and businesses in the communities of Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross.

'The college has made rapid progress in delivering positive outcomes for our learners and local stakeholders over the last four years, and is amongst the highest performing colleges in the country.'

'I look forward to working with John and our board and to continue our mission to help transform the economic prospects of our region, its people and its communities.'

Commando history featured on DVD

WORLD war two artefacts discovered at a former commando training centre in the West Highlands have been used to create a DVD documentary.

Lochaber archaeological society (LAS) carried out a dig at Achnacarry Castle last year and unearthed an array of relics which, combined with interviews with veterans, have been used to explain the role of Achnacarry, the ancestral home of Clan Cameron, in the war.

Robert Cairns, chairman of LAS, said: 'It was a moving experience.'

The DVD is available from West Highland museum, Fort William tourist office and Glen Nevis visitor centre.

MSP calls for new high risk diabetes screening

A HIGHLAND MSP has called for high risk screening to be introduced for type two diabetes.

David Stewart, MSP for the Highlands and Islands, asked Nicola Sturgeon at First Minister's questions if a programme could be introduced to screen those most at risk, including over 45s, those with a family history of diabetes and those who are overweight.

More than 16,000 people in the Highlands now suffer from the condition.

Mr Stewart said: 'There is a strong link between type two

Fort William police hunt sneak thief

POLICE in Fort William are appealing for information about the following crimes in the area.

At around 6.30pm on Thursday June 11, a resident in Mamore Crescent reported someone had sneaked into his house and stolen property.

Sometime between Thursday June 8 and Friday June 9, damage was caused to a door at an address in Campbell Court.

Anyone with information about these incidents is asked to contact police by calling the non-emergency line on 101 or the confidential line on 01397 702000.

Alternatively, Crimestoppers can be contacted on 0800 555111 or via crimestoppers-uk.org

TIMESLINE

Pupils' chapter and verse on coastline

A BOOK celebrating the Highland's coast, written by pupils across the region, is to be given to every school in the council area.

'Beside the Sea' features, artwork, stories and poems, in both English and Gaelic, about the seashore and its wildlife, created by the children themselves.

The pieces came from a competition entered by 724 pupils from 27 schools.

Janet Bromham, local biodiversity officer for Highland Council, said: 'To celebrate the success of the competition, the project is launching a published paperback book, dedicated to the entrants and to the Scottish home language, Gaelic.'

The book, which will be freely distributed to Highland schools, aims to encourage children to learn more about not only their local coastline but also their national language, Gaelic, helping children to learn and inspiring futures.'

New ruling sees later last orders

PUBS in the Highlands could be allowed to stay open later for special events, thanks to a new ruling by the local authority.

Highland council's licensing board approved a new policy last week stating premises can apply for extended hours for events of both local and national significance.

Decisions will be made on a case by case basis.

Councillor Ian Cockburn, convener of the licensing board, said: 'The adoption and publication of this supplementary statement is intended to give a greater degree of certainty to licensees as to the extended hours they are likely to be granted for these events, while still ensuring that the ultimate decision to grant extended hours rests with the board following consultation with Police Scotland.'

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Fairtrade prizewinner

Fort William RC primary school has been awarded a Fairtrade fair achiever prize. Pupils on the school's Fairtrade committee held a coffee morning, bought Fairtrade footballs and learned about the importance of farmers receiving a decent price for products as part of their work to win the award



ON SONG: a Lochaber music school choir entertained the audience

Music school concert and fun day hits all the right notes and banks £1,800

MORE than 100 pupils of Lochaber music school entertained the packed audience at Kilmallie hall during their annual concert and fun day at the weekend.

Armed with shakers, handbells, drums, recorders and chimes, the youngest children

performed alongside two choirs and four orchestras providing a variety of music, ranging from classic, traditional, African and Russian.

The event raised £1,800 for the music school, which will be used to help fund the curriculum during the coming year.



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Big drop in number of Gaelic students

THE NUMBER of students gaining Gaelic qualifications in the Highlands and Islands has dropped by a quarter.

In the first year of the new high school national exams, pupils learning Gaelic fell by 21 per cent and the number passing Gaelic exams fell by 25 per cent.

This prompted Highlands and Islands MSP, Rhoda Grant, to ask Fiona Hyslop, Scottish government cabinet secretary for culture, Europe and external affairs, what is being done to promote Gaelic. Ms Grant asked in Parliament: 'Gaelic culture and heritage is passed down in poetry and song. To access this we need to be able to speak and understand the language. There has been a marked drop in the number of pupils choosing Gaelic as a language which has led to a fall in the number of students gaining a qualification. What is the Scottish government doing to ensure the education system is providing the education and skills required to access our culture and heritage?'

Ms Hyslop said the government has made a 'significant contribution' to Gaelic education, arts and organisations including Bord na Gaelic and BB Alba.



YOUNG STARS: Lochaber music school's youngest pupils took to the stage with their parents

SAVE ENERGY

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Save Money

EVERYONE is looking for ways to cut spending these days. One of the biggest expenses for a household is the energy bill, so this is a natural place to start reigning in the budget. With the help of our advertisers and a personal resolution, there are many small, as well as big, steps that residents can take, whether they own or rent a house or flat. Saving energy is saving money, so get started today with our energy saving tips.

Turn down the thermostat. Reducing house temperatures by only 1°C can cut heating bills by up to £90 a year, according to the Energy Saving Trust. Save more by turning the radiators in rarely used rooms down or off - some units can be programmed to turn off when you are not home. Smart thermostats allow homeowners to operate the heating via the internet, which can save money when on vacation or at work. And when at home, putting on a jumper is a lot cheaper than turning up the heat.

Swap incandescent light bulbs for energy saving ones. Replacing just 10 light bulbs can save about £70 a year. And no matter what type of bulbs are in the house, switching off the lights is still one of the best ways to save energy. And the myth that turning lights on and off uses more energy than leaving them on? That is true for fluorescent tube lights but not other types of **Stop draughts.** Inspect windows, doors, chimneys, floorboards and loft hatches for draughts that are letting expensive heat escape outside. Apply draught-proofing strips or brush strips for windows, and a silicone-based filler to fill gaps in the floor. For unused fireplaces, insert a cap over the chimney or block it with an inflatable pillow. Look for even small holes that let air out, such as keyholes and letterboxes. Homeowners can save up to £50 a year with just a few pounds worth of draught proofing materials.

Buy energy efficient appliances. When replacing an appliance, cut power bills by choosing the most energy efficient model. For a washing machine, this could mean an annual savings up to £39, and for a fridge-freezer this could add up to £62 a year savings.

Insulate effectively. Insulating the loft and cavity walls with a thickness of recommended 270mm can save up to £300 a year. Check to see if the household qualifies for a free insulation deal through an energy supplier.

Replace old boilers. Switching a G-rated boiler with no controls for a condensing model with a programmer could slash up to £340 a year in the gas bill.

Invest in an energy monitor. This is a handheld device that estimates how much energy a home consumes in real time. The cost is minimal, but check with energy suppliers to see if they give them away for free.

Another form of renewable energy for your home is an air source heat pump.

An air source heat pump extracts heat from the outside air in the same way that a fridge extracts heat from its inside and can get heat from the air even when the temperature is as low as -15°C.

This can then be used to heat radiators, under-floor heating systems, or warm air convectors and hot water in your home.

It could lower fuel bills, especially if you are replacing conventional electric heating but it still needs electricity to power the pump.

Air source heat pumps and ground source heat pumps - which extract heat from the soil but require either vertical bore holes or a large tract of land to lay piping - can also provide you with an income through the government's Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI).

The Renewable Heat Incentive is the world's first long-term financial support programme for renewable heat.

The RHI pays participants of the scheme that generate and use renewable energy to heat their buildings, which also helps the UK reduce greenhouse gas emissions and meet targets for reducing the effects of climate change.

Not everyone has the money to make big changes

to their heating system, but everyone can make small adjustments in their home to save money in a number of ways.

Turning your thermostat down by 1°C can save you as much as £60 per year.

Also, keeping your heating constantly on a low heat could potentially save you more money than switching it on and off for big blasts of heat.

Wearing more jumpers, socks and slippers around the house, and putting an extra blanket on the bed means you won't be tempted to turn the heating up.

Turn down the pressure on your shower, as a high-pressure power shower uses a surprising amount of water, sometimes even more than a bath.

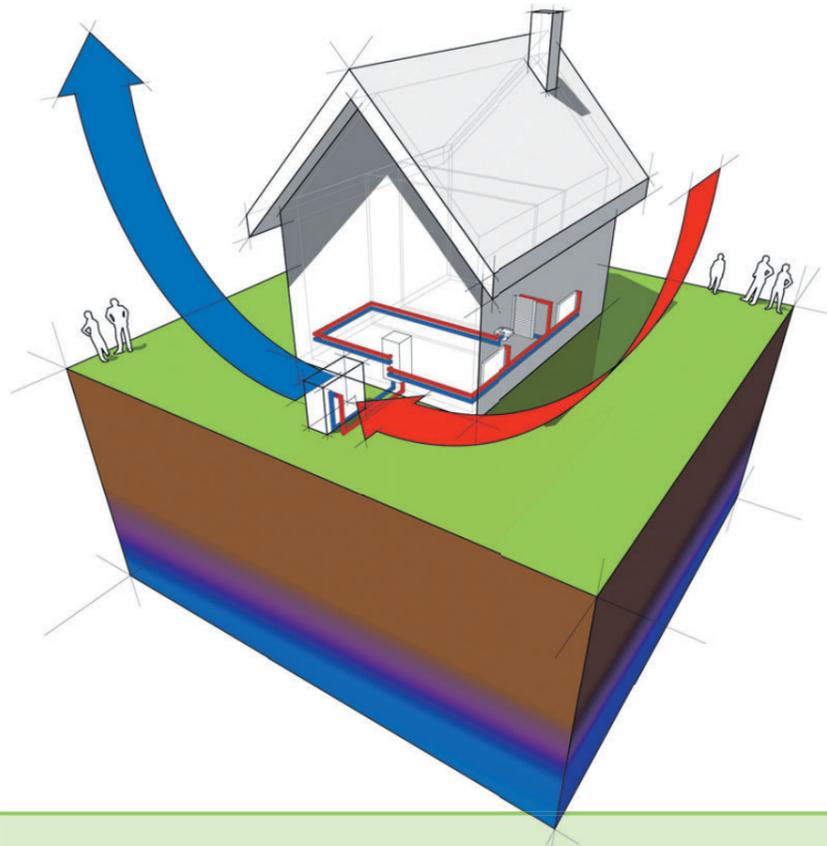
Try to be aware of unnecessary lights left on, and appliances left plugged-in or on standby.

Nearly all electrical and electronic appliances can safely be turned off at the plug without up-setting their systems.

A typical household could save between £45 and £80 a year just by remembering to turn off appliances left on standby.

Changing how you use your kitchen appliances can save you money as well.

Setting your washing machine to wash at 30°C saves money by reducing the cost of heating the water.



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Don't fill your kettle full every time, just boil the amount of water you need.

If you're going to use the oven, bake a few meals at a time to get the most out of having your oven on.

Ovens don't allow us to heat one shelf at a time so don't waste your heat.

Leave the oven door open after cooking to let the heat warm your kitchen.

The oven might give off enough heat for you to adjust your thermostat, a far more efficient use of that stored heat than throwing it out of your home with an extractor fan.

Avoid pre-rinsing dishes in hot water and save water and energy by just scraping the dishes before they go into a dish washer – and set it on a lower temperature setting too.

Not only do these energy saving tips help you, they help the environment.

If we all do our bit, these small changes can make a huge impact to energy usage the world over.



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A low-carbon alternative to electric heating that could save you up to £880 a year

What is biomass?

Biomass renewable heating systems burn wood pellets, chips or logs to provide warmth in a single room and can power central heating and hot water boilers.

Central heating systems using locally sourced sustainable wood fuel are a low carbon alternative to fossil fuels and can be cheaper to run than off-gas alternatives.

How does it work?

A boiler burns logs, pellets or chips, and is connected to a central heating and hot water system. A wood-fuelled biomass boiler could save you up to £880 a year compared to electric heating*.

What do I need?

Suitable properties should have enough space to install the heating system (inside or outside) and store the fuel, and have a locally available wood fuel source.

The benefits of biomass heating

1 Affordable heating fuel

The price of wood fuel varies considerably but it is often cheaper than other ways of heating your home.

2 Financial support

Wood fuel boiler systems could benefit from the Renewable Heat Incentive. For a four-bedroom detached house, you could receive payments of around £1,730 to £2,610 a year**. In addition, the Home Energy Scotland renewables loan scheme is currently open to new applications. Interest-free loans for up to 75 per cent of the total cost of renewables systems are available up to £10,000.

3 A low-carbon option

The carbon dioxide emitted when wood is burned is the same amount that was absorbed over the months and years that the plant was growing. The process is sustainable as long as new plants continue to grow in place of those used for fuel. There are some carbon emissions caused by the cultivation, manufacture and transportation of the fuel, but as long as the fuel is sourced locally, these are much lower than the emissions from fossil fuels.

For more information call Home Energy Scotland on 0808 808 2282 to find out how you can save energy and more money, and book a free home visit to assess your property.

*Based on a typical four-bed detached solid-walled home switching from electric storage heating to a biomass pellet boiler. Using an off-peak (Economy 7) electricity price of 7.22p/kWh and a wood pellet price of 4.77p/kWh (bulk price). Prices correct as of February 2015 and valid for 2015.

**Based on an RHI tariff of 8.93p/kWh, valid for installations made between April 1 and June 30, 2015.

energy saving trust

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Oban Music Society and the Mendelssohn on Mull Festival

TO CELEBRATE Mendelssohn's famous visit to Oban and Mull in 1829, the Mendelssohn on Mull Trust runs an annual festival in his spirit.

During the week, six established musicians and thirteen outstanding young professional players, play chamber music of international standard.

This concert is a wonderful opportunity to hear a chamber concert at its best. After a week of playing on Mull, the crescendo of the week culminates in Oban with a concert.

The concert at St John's provides a chance to hear the highlights of the week as chosen by the musicians themselves.

Composers such as Brahms, Vaughan Williams, Bruckner

Haydn and Dvorak as well as Mendelssohn will be included in the concert.

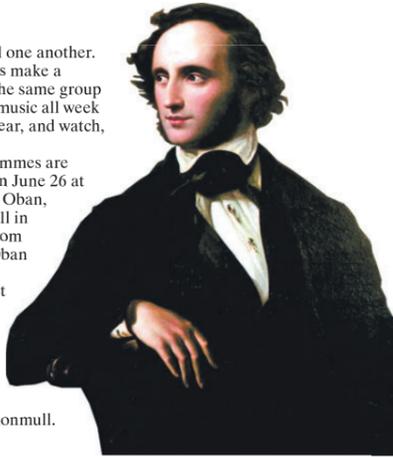
The evening concludes with a performance by all the musicians of Two Pieces for Octet by Shostakovich, pieces that evoke such emotion that they have left an indelible impression on audiences over the last two years.

The festival is unusual in that the older and younger musicians play alongside each other in very small intimate groups, leaning collaboratively from one another. This gives a freshness and spontaneity to the music, which is valued as much by the older players as their younger colleagues. As the week unfolds, each group moves from accurate execution to becoming one with

both the work and one another. Some enthusiasts make a point of hearing the same group playing the same music all week so that they can hear, and watch, it change.

Detailed Programmes are available free from June 26 at the Music shop in Oban, from the Aros Hall in Tobermory and from members of the Oban Music Society.

The concert at St John's Cathedral is on Saturday July 4, at 7.30 pm. Further information is on the website www.mendelssohnonmull.com



Megan Day gave a superb first performance with the company. 16_t2spotlight2

SPOTLIGHT musical theatre group

A SP version of theat

Crossing: A place where paths meet

AN TALLA Solais in Ullapool is hosting a joint exhibition of landscape paintings by Diana Hope and portrait paintings by Daniel Murray.

Diana Hope is an established artist living and working in Edinburgh. She is a visiting tutor at both Leith School of Art and the Edinburgh College of Art.

Her bright landscapes explore the intensity of personal experience and memories of her childhood in the Aberdeenshire countryside.

She said: 'My work is about the remembered landscape, and arises directly from recent conversations/recollections with my father which prompted my desire to explore my own memory of the experience of being brought up on the Scottish land.'

'My father, George Mackie, the ex-Member of Parliament for Caithness and Sutherland, died

earlier this year. The works in this exhibition are dedicated to him.'

Daniel Murray is a young artist from Poolewe and a graduate of Ullapool's Bridgehouse Art Portfolio Course. He is interested in exploring new narratives and compositions within his strong style.

He added: 'I have always been interested in portraiture and I have enjoyed working towards this exhibition immensely.'

'Although some of the paintings are quite traditional in style, I have tried in others to explore the distortion of the subject's form to create more abstract portraits.'

'Contrast in colour and paintings with an almost dreamlike/ambiguous quality interests me a lot. It will be really interesting having two different styles of work that differ in subject matter hanging together.'



Daniel Murray's portraits make up part of a new exhibition by himself and Diana Hope.

Humpback spotters in for a whale of a time

WILDLIFE enthusiasts along the west coast are being treated to an unusually high number of sightings of the humpback whale.

Reports, photographs and videos of humpbacks have been flooding in to researchers at the Sea Watch Foundation.

A humpback whale breach was snapped on a mobile phone by fisherman, Brian Wells, in the Sound of Raasay last autumn.

Other recent humpback whale sightings include in the Sound of Raasay between Rona and Skye in the Hebrides on June 7.

Humpback whales are not common in British waters, but are occasionally and increasingly encountered off the west coast of Ireland and northern Scotland in summer.

They are on their way from wintering and breeding grounds off the coasts of Africa to feeding grounds mainly around Iceland.

Sightings of whales, dolphins and porpoises can easily be submitted online at www.seawatchfoundation.org.uk and you can also find out more information about the work of the charity and species fact files too.



A humpback whale captured on a mobile phone by fisherman Brian Wells in the Sound of Raasay last autumn.

Festival of the Sea mascot on its way to America

AN EIGHT-legged mascot which was one of the stars during the 2015 Festival of the Sea, run by the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS), will be going stateside and shown at an international puppet festival following the conclusion of a competition to give it a name.

The life-sized, Miss Octavia Murray, and her mini-me, Artemis the Octopus, appeared at various festival events from May 22 - 31.

Organisers invited the 3,500 people who attended to suggest names for the pair and 72 entries were submitted.

The winners were 80-year-old Angela Colette, who named Octavia, and Rona Shearer, aged 11, who named Artemis.

Now, Artemis will go to America to the National Puppetry Festival in August. He will be on display for three and a half months at the alumni exhibition 'The Work That Follows: 50 Years of UConn Puppeteers' at the Ballard Institute and Museum of Puppetry, which is part of the University of Connecticut.

Both mascots were created by US puppetry artist, Nicky Graziano, who is currently living in Dunbeg. She led the SAMS 'sea monster project' that allowed local primary schools to explore deep sea biology and to create their own sea monsters. Nicky - who taught them how to make puppets - also compered the Festival of the Sea's sea monster cabaret.

Beaver to be native species plea



DEMANDS for the beaver to be reintroduced after a trial in Argyll was made by 20 of Scotland's environmental organisations on Tuesday.

The experts called for Dr Aileen McLeod, MSP, to recognise the beaver as a resident, native species.

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The full cast of Anything Goes in Taynuilt village hall. 16_t25spotlight3

Ellie Cooper cuts quite a dash as Snoopy. 16_t25spotlight1



PUPILS at Dunbeg primary school were all shook up by a visit from Lidl's health bus team who showed them how to make a healthy fruit smoothie. The health bus was in town for a few days and each pupil who visited received a free badge and cup. 16_t25shake1



WINNERS: Inveraray school choir who competed at Oban provincial Mòd and won the Oban town council trophy for 'Unison Singing' with conductor, Josie Campbell. t25inveraray1no

hits the right note

ECTACULAR show saw a shortened run of Anything Goes, the Spotlight are company's recent musical hit, along

with a range of talented performers who brought the house down on Saturday night in Taynuilt village hall.



Nicky with festival mascots, Miss Octavia Murray and Artemis the Octopus. Artemis will soon be making his way to Connecticut.

A touch of tartan for record-breaking dance

TARTAN: Mary's Meals charity shop is ahead of the game for The Big Strip with badges and material to make the day go with a tartan fling.

Christina Litster, shop volunteer, and shop manager, Marie Brown, are on hand Monday to Saturday to give advice to participants who want to join the largest Strip the Willow dance and hopefully enter the Guinness Book of Records. 2015 people are being asked to take to the floor on Saturday July 4 in Station Square Oban and George Street as the town attempts to break the world record. The event is free to join but partici-



Malt of the Month

SPONSORED BY Ben Nevis Distillery (Fort William) Ltd.

Ardmore Legacy 40% ABV

I have a friend, Fiona, who works in public relations. She is a feisty, lacrosse-playing twenty-something who runs for fun. She has wild red hair that makes me think that she is a native cheuchter. Therefore in a recent phone call with her it was no surprise what she had been plucked from the anonymity of London - to become my personal whisky ambassador (only in my dreams). She sent me an Ardmore Legacy. This is a real gift of a bottle of whisky. It looks wonderful with its wide scooping Golden Eagle on the front of the bottle. It reminded me of Fiona. It tasted a like a night on the hillside (in the summer - with no midges). This is a full-bodied, dry and spicy whisky with a mix of peat-



ed and non-peated grains to invigorate the senses. I drank it with my brother and he wanted to convince me of what he was tasting. I tried to explain that is not what whisky is about for me. If it was there would be one whisky that everyone likes.

We take to whisky because it mixes with our own chemicals and becomes something that is quite amazing because every taste is unique to us. In fact that thinking is perhaps a wee bit existential. Whisky is whisky after all. This single malt is the replacement for Ardmore's traditional single malt, and by the tastes of it, not to mention having Fiona on its cask (cask, case - get it?) then it is bound to be a bit of special whisky market leader.

Louise Glen

competition time!



The Falkirk Wheel is one of Scotland's top tourist destinations and attracts visitors from all across the World. The best way to experience The Falkirk Wheel is by taking a trip on a breath-taking boat journey. The 50 minute journey lifts the boat up 35m from the Fourth and Clyde canal and sails smoothly from The Falkirk Wheel onto the Union Canal. The family ticket includes 2 adults and 2 children for a boat trip. We have four tickets to give away, which are valid until the 31st of October. For more details go to www.thefalkirkwheel.co.uk

For your chance to win a family ticket for The Falkirk Wheel, simply answer this easy question, complete the coupon and post it to The Oban Times, Falkirk Wheel Competition, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Entries must be submitted by 7 July 2015.

Question: How long does the boat journey take? a) 30 b) 40 c) 50 minutes?

Answer.....
Name.....
Address.....
Postcode.....
Telephone.....
Email.....

Terms and conditions: The prize is as stated. No cash alternative. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entry coupons will not be accepted. The winner may be asked to take part in publicity and may appear in a Wyvex Media publication and website. This competition is not open to Wyvex Media and associated company employees and their families. Winners will be notified by Tuesday 7 July 2015.

competition time!

Entertainment Guide

Cinema

Oban Phoenix Cinema, community-owned and run
Tel: 01631 562905 www.obanphoenix.com

26 JUNE 2015 - 02 JULY 2015

DESPICABLE ME 2 (U)
Sat: 10:00

ENO: CARMEN (12A)
Wed: 19:30

INSIDIOUS: CHAPTER 3 (15)
Fri: 20:50; Sat, Sun: 21:00; Mon, Thu: 20:15; Tue: 17:30, 20:00; Wed: 20:30

JURASSIC WORLD (12A)
Sat: 18:15, 19:10; Sun: 18:15, 20:45; Mon: 17:30, 20:15; Tue: 20:45; Thu: 17:30

JURASSIC WORLD 3D (12A)
Fri: 21:40; Sat: 21:50; Sun, Tue: 18:00; Wed: 16:00; Thu: 20:15

MINIONS (PG)
Fri: 13:30, 14:00, 16:15, 18:30, 19:10; Sat: 10:10, 14:30, 16:00; Sun: 10:30, 10:45, 15:40, 16:00; Mon, Tue: 10:30, 10:45, 13:00, 15:15, 15:30; Wed: 13:20, 13:45, 16:00, 18:15; Thu: 10:45, 13:00, 15:15, 18:00

MINIONS 3D (U)
Fri: 16:45; Sat: 12:00, 16:45; Sun: 13:10; Mon: 13:00, 18:00; Tue: 13:00; Wed: 10:55; Thu: 10:30, 15:30

FILM SYNOPSIS

MINIONS
Hilarious animated family fun. Minions live to serve, but find themselves working for a continual series of unsuccessful masters, from T. Rex to Napoleon. Without a master to grovel for, the Minions fall into a deep depression. But one minion, Kevin, has a plan; accompanied by his pals Stuart and Bob, Kevin sets forth to find a new evil boss for his brethren to follow.

INSIDIOUS 3
Spine-tingling prequel to the much loved franchise. When teenager Quinn Brenner (Stefanie Scott) senses that her late mother is trying to contact her, she seeks help from gifted psychic Elise Rainier (Lin Shaye). However, Elise's tragic past makes her reluctant to use her abilities. After Quinn is attacked by a malevolent entity, her father (Dermot Mulroney) pleads with Elise for help. With support from two parapsychologists, Elise ventures deep into The Further - where she finds a powerful demon with an insatiable craving for human souls.

ENO: CARMEN
Livestream performance from English national Opera. A passionate tale of lust, seduction and betrayal, no other opera boasts as popular a following as Bizet's Carmen. Set during the dying days of Franco's Spain, Calixto Bieito's acclaimed production of this must-see opera has been enjoyed by audiences across Europe.

Radio

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THIS WEEK'S LISTINGS

MONDAY:
0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show, 0900 Monday Morning With Andy and Stephen, 1100 Molly Black, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Jim Edge, 1700 Drivetime With Danni Hay, 1900 Rosie's Highland Fling, 2000 John McLuckie's Show, 2100 David Cullen, 2200 American Jukebox with Michelle

TUESDAY:
0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show with Maggie May, 1000 Ken Hunter, 1200 Memories are Made of This with Ken Hunter, 1330 The Quiz with Danni Hay, 1500 Lesley Blair-Simmonds, 1700 Drivetime with Jim Lynch, 1900 Sounds Scottish with Archie Cameron, 2000 Highest Praise with Stuart, 2100 Elaine Lamb, 2300 Northern Soul with Gordon Covey

WEDNESDAY:
0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show, 0900 Sound Scottish (repeat), 1000 Comfort Zone with Doug Carmichael, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Elaine Lamb, 1700 Drivetime with Campbell and Coll, 1900 Country Meets Rock with Len & Ken, 2100 Gordon's Grooves

THURSDAY:
0800 Maggie May's Carousel, 1100 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Gordon Covey, 1700 Drivetime with DJ Taz, 1900 Christine's Collection, 2100 Ann's Cellidh, 2200 Margo Till Midnight

FRIDAY:
0800 Jean Ainsley Breakfast Show, 1000 Teeny and Tiny Show, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Weekend Warmup with Ian Blair-Simmonds, 1700 Drive Show with Jim Lynch, 1845 Sports View, 1900 Country Meets Country with Jackie Craig, 2000 Friday Night with Innes, 2100 TFI Friday with Jim Lawn

SATURDAY:
0900 Maggie's Swingin' Sixties, 1000 Saturday Morning Live with Linda Crowscher, 1330 CLYDE 2, 1800 Sports View with the Dream Team, 1900 Marcus, 2000 Dave Lewis

SUNDAY:
0900 Sunday Morning with Breege, 1100 - 1400 Allan, 1630 Archie Darling, 1800 Ken's Friends with Ken Hunter, 1900 New Country Show with David Entwistle, 2100 Drum & Bass with Graham Scott



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Social scene

Helen Long of the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Trust holds up a whale's baleen, a tooth-like filter in the mammal's mouth. She is a volunteer with the organisation. 16_t25swt5



Maurice Wilkins and Jean Ainsley welcomed visitors in the car park. 16_t25swt1

Scottish Wildlife Trust

Roni Macdonald, chainsaw artist, shows off his wildlife collection. 16_t25swt2



Animals and other attractions at Trust's first event at Dunollie

A DAY out with the animals saw people flock to Dunollie House to support the Argyll branch of the Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT). The group raised £660 at this its first event held in the grounds of the historic house and home.

Tony Mitchell-Jones, said: 'More than 150 people attended the event. Considering it was a new venue for us and there were various other events on that day, we think this was pretty good. 'Attractions included Splat the

Rat!, the Lorn Model Engineering Club, with various working steam models and Paul Finnegan came along with his falcon. 'We were lucky enough to have goods supplied for the tombola by a number of generous local

businesses.' A voucher for two wills was gifted from Stevenson-Kennedy, while vouchers towards wildlife cruises from Sealife Adventures and a sumptuous basket of bath goodies from Purdies were also among the prizes.

The beaver's body was no where to be seen. 16_t25swt4



Wilkins and George MacMillan of Oban. 16_t25swt3



The Midge Factory's owners, Lisa and Ronnie Robison, were in high demand for their midgie products and repellent. 16_t25swt6



Committee members, Sarah Black, Joyce Coup and Rob Lightfoot, who are on the Scottish Wildlife Trust branch committee. 16_t25swt7

Events funding up for grabs

A BRAND new £200,000 events fund created to celebrate Scotland's achievements in innovation, architecture and design has been launched by EventScotland, part of VisitScotland's events directorate.

Applications are now open for the events and festivals sector across Scotland to apply for a 2016 Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design event grant of up to £20,000.

So organisers of events throughout Argyll and the Isles can now apply for a share of the funding.

From textiles to technology,

architecture to fashion and design, the year-long programme of activities begins on January 1 and runs until December 31 2016.

And it will shine the spotlight on Scotland's greatest assets and icons, as well as its hidden gems.

Home to ground-breaking innovators, scientists, engineers, architects and designers for hundreds of years, Scotland will celebrate just some of these contributions during 2016.

But the creative and innovative minds that continue to inspire and influence audiences across the

globe and the modern world we live in today will also be showcased too.

Supporting events from a minimum award of £4,000 up to a maximum award of £20,000, the funding will be awarded to create new event activity or enhance existing event programmes which reflect the themes and support the objectives of the year.

They must also promote Scotland, celebrate the country's achievements, encourage participation and engagement as well as boosting tourism.

Traditional arts cash deadline

THE organisation administering a new fund launched to offer grants for Scottish Traditional Arts is issuing a reminder that the first deadline for applications is getting closer.

The fund - Tasgadh - is devolved from Creative Scotland and is managed by Fèisean nan Gàidheal.

It can provide support for traditional artists and organisations to create, perform, tour and showcase work.

Professional development applica-

tions can also be supported though the fund.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal chief executive, Arthur Cormack, said: 'While Creative Scotland continues to support traditional arts directly and will deal with larger projects through other routes, it is important that there is access to small grants.

'We are delighted to be working with Creative Scotland to provide that kind of support for Scottish traditional music, dance and

storytelling and expect a high level of uptake for the funds.

'We'd like to remind potential applicants that the first round of applications will close on July 3.'

There are three deadline dates for applications during 2015-16, the first of those being next Friday.

If you would like further information on guidelines and applications, these are available by logging on to feisan.org

Art trail outdoors at Tainish

AN OUTDOOR art trail has been unveiled at an Argyll National Nature Reserve (NNR).

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) has confirmed that Tainish nature reserve will host the free outdoor art trail along the all-ability Mill path to the shore.

Among the artists are international sculptor, Rob Mulholland, and, from Artmap Argyll, Louise Oppenheimer, Sian MacQueen, and Lesley Burr.

Rob Mulholland recently produced an art installation to commemorate the centenary of the First World War which was used as a trailer for the BBC. He is currently working on a statement piece for the entrance to Cuningar Loop in Glasgow.

Tainish has previously hosted four of Rob's sculptures which were so

well-received they feature again this year.

Caroline Anderson of SNH's Lochgilphead office said: 'It has been a joy working with the Artmap Argyll artists to bring this art trail to Tainish.

'You can see from the works on show that the artists really understood the environment the art work is to be displayed in and as a result they created some beautiful site-specific pieces.'

Louise Oppenheimer is a member of the British tapestry group and gets her inspiration from nature, replicating the colours and textures in tapestries.

Sian MacQueen graduated from Glasgow School of Art with a degree in Fine Arts. This award-winning

artist is inspired by the landscape of Argyll which frequently features in her work.

Lesley Burr, also a Glasgow School of Art graduate, has exhibited her drawings and paintings all over the UK.

For the Mill exhibition she has created two glass and porcelain mosaics which are sympathetic to the surrounding environment.

The exhibition also features works by Kirsty Brady, Jane Walker, Lucinda Hopkinson, Margaret Kerr, Melanie Chmielewska and Jane Smith.

The free exhibition runs until August 29 and is open at all times.

For further information please contact caroline.anderson@snh.gov.uk

Ceolas set for summer school

CEOLAS organisers are ready for another week-long music summer school with a great selection of talent in South Uist starting on the first Sunday in July.

Fiddlers, Dwayne Côté, Howie MacDonald and step-dancer, Leanne Aucoin from Cape Breton, will be here

teaching and performing at the annual event.

From Scotland there will be singers, Mairi MacInnes, Margaret MacLellan, Griogair Labhruidh and Paul McCallum, fiddlers, Sarah Hoy and Alasdair White, as well as pipers,

Angus Nicolson, Seonaidh MacIntyre and Fin Moore. Patsy Seddon will be teaching Clàrsach. Dancers are Jayne MacLeod - step-dance and Shona MacLellan - reels and quadrilles with Kilphedar Sound playing. More info on web-site; www.ceolas.co.uk

Social scene

Dunbeg Fun Day

All smiles at Dunbeg Fun Day

DUNBEG's fun day was the highlight of the week for school children - on a weekend! The event was all in aid of raising money for school pupils.



Ellie Cooper on the coconut stall with Finlay, Fergus and Benji. 16_t25dunbeg3



Teacher Nicola Bichard with Finlay, Claire MacAskill, 11, Rosie Dairon, 9, and Fergus. 16_t25dunbeg2



Burgers, provided by Jackson butchers, were on sale cooked expertly by Neil Munro, Chelsea MacAulay, Kathryn MacIntyre and Isla Munro. 16_t25dunbeg1



Claire Macdonald with helpers. 16_t25dunbeg8



Pauline Gild was on the raffle stall. 16_t25dunbeg5



Rachel Sinclair, 10, who helped on the baking stall. 16_t25dunbeg7



Helen and Melody Hwang who had her own wee shop. 16_t25dunbeg4



Jacqueline Harrison and Shirley-Anne MacAskill were on the bottle stall. 16_t25dunbeg6

Kids wave goodbye to day nursery

HAPPY House Christian day nursery children wave goodbye to many years of service to the community, as the popular centre closes its doors for the last time at the end of June. t25happy1no



Tina's head shave raised vital cash for young carers

HAIR TODAY: (from left) Sandy Lawrie, young adult carer, Tina Scorgie from A-pin, who shaved her hair off to raise cash for young carers and Arlene Colewell, the local young carers service co-ordinator. Arlene is handing over a thank you card to Tina. 16_t24carers1no



Oban Chairities Day aided by St Columba's School

FAIRY TALES: St Columba primary school parents took part in the parade for Oban Chairities Day. t25fairytale1no



Bookbug makes guest appearance at special pyjama party

PUPILS at St Columba's primary school were delighted when Bookbug himself came along to open the room for pupils. Pupils had a special pyjama party in celebration of the room being finished and ready to use. 16-t25bookbug1



Gaelic film competition aims to uncover new talent for TV

FILMG, MG ALBA's Gaelic short film competition has been launched with an event at Pacific Quay, the BBC headquarters in Glasgow. Pupils from three local high schools visited to see this year's theme revealed and to hear Gaelic-speaking BBC staff talk about their experiences working in the industry. The competition, which is now in its eighth year, is aimed at uncovering new talent for the Gaelic TV channel BBC Alba as well as encouraging grassroots filmmaking and story-telling in Gaelic-speaking communities across Scotland. It is hoped that this year's

theme 'Clìù' which means prestige, fame or reputation, will be a good way for filmmakers to access interesting stories about individuals or places for their films. As well as a number of additional awards, including Best Script, Best Comedy Short and Best Animation, this year's competition also sees the addition of an award for the Best Mobile Short. Entrants are asked to shoot at least 70 per cent of their footage on a mobile device and funders MG ALBA believe this will lead to the creation of more user generated Gaelic content. Iseabail Mactaggart, MG ALBA's director of develop-

ment and partnership, said: 'The rise in digital media is extremely exciting. 'More and more people are viewing content online and the space between the creator and the audience is getting closer, particularly with social media as a means of promoting content. 'We'd like to see more Gaelic content within this space and FilmG is a great scheme for supporting this outcome.' FilmG is particularly popular with high schools across Scotland that teach Gaelic. Three schools were able to attend the event, Glasgow Gaelic School, Greenfaulds High School in Cumbernauld, and Grange

Academy in Kilmarnock. Pupils enjoyed hearing from BBC staff about their experiences, particularly De-a-Nis? presenter, Megan MacLellan, who got her first big break through FilmG. Megan said: 'I thought I was just acting in a little school film, but then I was short-listed for my performance and won the award at the first FilmG Awards ceremony back in 2009. 'As my studies were coming to an end an opportunity to audition for De-a-Nis? came up and I jumped at it. 'I love how varied my job is, sometimes I'm in the office and other times I can be out filming some really cool and

fun things.' FilmG is now open for entries until Wednesday December 16. All films must be in Scottish Gaelic and can be up to five minutes (youth category) or up to 10 minutes (open and community) in length. Films from previous

years are available to watch online at www.filmg.co.uk.

If you'd like to make a film and want to know more about the competition, please contact the team at fios@filmg.co.uk



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25 - 28 september 2015

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WITH ancient Gaelic roots and a thriving tradition of music, dance and art, Oban is steeped in rich local culture.

A vibrant live music scene keeps Oban in the groove, with everything from traditional Scottish tunes to rock and roll that keeps the crowd dancing all night. The area proffers a huge number of music festivals that showcase music of all genres, from up-and-coming acts to national favourites. All these festivals, though, focus on local acts, dipping into a deep well of musical talent here.

Highland games are a much loved custom in Oban and Lorn, with several in the area each

summer. A spectacle of tartan, athletics, pipes and dancing grace fields and parade down town and village streets, much to the delight of locals and holiday makers alike.

Oban has been the spiritual home of the Royal National Mòd since it was first held here in 1892. This annual spectacle of literature, dance, song and art, called the Home of Gaelic Culture, is Scotland's most important Mòd. The event rotates locations each year, and this year Oban will once again host from October 9-17, bringing competitors from all over the country and thrilling visitors from around the world with competitions for everything

from Highland dancing to Gaelic choir.

Ceilidh dancing is another tradition that is alive and well in the village halls and nightclubs around Oban. People of all ages come together for a great time centred around energetic set dancing- it's rare to see events today that involve one and all, from granny to the kids, but here, everyone knows the steps- it's part of the culture.

For generations, artists have been drawn here. Painters, sculptures and writers find plenty of stimulation in the spectacular landscape and quaint architecture of Oban and Lorn. A visit to one of the many area galleries is a

must, where one can find a truly local souvenir- one made in, and inspired by, the very land itself.

Whether looking for a way to spend a holiday or pass the summer break for kids, a local museum is enjoyable for all, rain or shine. Find out about Oban's natural and cultural history and see artefacts that bring the past to life. With interactive exhibits and friendly, knowledgeable guides, learning about everything from sea life to clan histories is fun for all ages.

To get a real taste of Oban's culture, just get out and sample the music, games, festivals, museums and galleries-it's the best of the west.



KILMARTIN MUSEUM Summer Activities

Kilmartin Museum will be running a series of weekly drop-in, hands on workshops based around some of the artefacts in the museum collection and the surrounding area. This will showcase a number of the skills and processes our ancestors would have used to produce every day items. All under 16s need to be accompanied by an adult. See our website www.kilmartin.org for further details

	Thursday 2 nd July 1-3pm	Coiled Rush Baskets Suitable for age 10+
	Thursday 9 th July 1-3pm	Stone Carving Suitable for age 10+
	Tuesday 14 th July 1-2pm and 2-3pm	Story Telling Suitable for 3-6 year olds
	Thursday 16 th July 1-3pm	Bronze Age Pottery Suitable for age 5+
	Thursday 23 rd July 1-3pm	Hand Weaving Suitable for age 5+
	Thursday 30 th July 1-3pm	Cordage Making Suitable for age 6+
	Thursday 6 th August 1-3pm	Wool Carding & Spinning Suitable for age 8+
	Thursday 13 th August 1-2pm and 2-3pm	Storytelling Suitable for 3-6 year olds
	Thursday 20 th August 1-3pm	Jewellery: The Dunadd Brooch & Celtic Brooches Suitable for age 5+
	Thursday 27 th August 1-3pm	Simulated Archaeology Dig Suitable for age 5+

Kilmartin Museum, Kilmartin, Argyll, PA31 8RQ
www.kilmartin.org
01546 510278
admin@kilmartin.org

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This role presents a wonderful opportunity for an ambitious person with excellent communication and organisational skills to drive forward the Trust's plans to make the Town Hall the area's premier venue for functions, conferences, weddings and events.

The Town Hall Manager will be responsible for the day to day operation and administration of Campbeltown Town Hall ensuring that all services are delivered to the highest possible standards.

The role includes: Marketing and promotional activities in order to sell the facilities of Campbeltown Town Hall to commercial organisations and the local community (e.g. office rental, hot desks, functions etc). Working with local groups and community organisations to assist them in making best use of the Town Hall facilities. Organising an agreed number of large and small events per annum. Invoicing and VAT returns, administration of licences (Bar, Premises, PRS, Radio etc), Internal trading, Banking, Petty Cash management, administration of public exhibitions, Inventories, bookings & payments, Conference enquiries, stocktaking. Candidates must be educated to 'Higher' Level or equivalent. Experience in marketing and facilities management within the social enterprise sector would be a distinct advantage. So if you have an interest or background in marketing/PR and event organisation we would love to hear from you.

Applications must be with us by close of business 17th July 2015. Interviews will be held on the week beginning 10th August with an appointment made soon thereafter.

For a job description and an information pack please contact:

Eric Spence, Project Coordinator, by email at info@skdt.org



Vacancy: 1 x Full Time Freshwater Operative

Location: Ardtaraig Hatchery, Loch Striven, Dunoon

Cooke Aquaculture Scotland is a leading company in the Scottish Salmon Industry producing exceptionally high quality products for an increasingly demanding market. We have operations throughout Scotland, Cumbria and the Northern Isles of Orkney and Shetland, together; we pledge a strong dedication to achieving a sustainable aquaculture industry.

We are currently seeking candidates to take on the position of Freshwater Operative at our Ardtaraig Hatchery, Argyll. As part of a small team, they will assist their colleagues in building strong key relationships and ensuring a safe working environment for all.

The Role:

The successful candidate will find themselves reportable to the Freshwater Manager for Ardtaraig.

Qualifications/Skills required but not essential as full training can be given:

- 2 years' experience working in a Freshwater Hatchery environment
- Ability to participate in an 'Alarm Duty' rota system
- Good understanding of the aquaculture industry
- Candidate must be flexible with regard to hours worked, weekend working will be required
- Be a good team player but have the ability to work alone when required
- Inter-personal and excellent communication skills
- Clean UK driving licence

The ideal candidate will be committed to achieving the best results in a challenging environment and delivering the highest standards of performance possible. In return, we offer a highly competitive salary, employer pension contribution, company bonus scheme and salary sacrifice programmes.

If you feel you have the necessary attributes to successfully fulfil this position and contribute to a progressive, results orientated company, then please send your covering letter and CV to vicci.laird@cookeaquaculture.com by 10 July 2015.

The Scottish Salmon Company



The Scottish Salmon company is the leading independent producer of Scottish salmon. We are committed to high standards of animal welfare, sustainable operations and promoting a responsible environmental policy.

MARINE OPERATIVE
Ref: Mull (Loch Na Keal) MO/06/15
Salary – Dependant on experience

We are seeking a Marine Operative within our site on Mull. Candidates will be enthusiastic, self-motivated and be able to demonstrate prior experience in working within small, focused teams. Day to day duties will include fish welfare, sampling, grading and moving of the fish, site maintenance, net changing and boat handling. Previous aquaculture experience is desirable for this post; the company can offer further development and training opportunities through in-house training and also by external training providers. Preference will also be given to those candidates who can offer transferable, related skills and qualifications. In return, the Company offers a comprehensive pay and benefits package including entry into the Company pension scheme. **A full, clean driving licence is also essential.**

For an application form and job description, please contact:
Angela Gibson HR Officer,
The Scottish Salmon Company,
Ardkinglas Estate, Cairndow,
Argyll, PA26 8BH.
Tel. No. 01499 600 430
Email: angela.gibson@scottishsalmon.com
Closing date for applications: 5pm Wednesday 8th July 2015
Visit our website at www.scottishsalmon.com

Dynamic individuals required to take forward ACT Argyll

ACT Argyll is a new company owned by the charity Argyll and the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust. ACT Argyll delivers environmental contracts for a range of partners whilst offering a progressive structure for training and skills.

Improving our environment Investing in our workforce

Skills and Contracts Manager

Required to lead and manage our teams in Oban and Helensburgh, to secure ongoing contract work and co-ordinate the teams' training programme. This is a full time position, salary £30,000.

Chargehands

Required to manage, encourage, and deliver effective teams onsite (one post in Helensburgh, one in Oban). These are full time positions, salary £17,759.

Administrative Officer

To support the work of ACT charity, and ACT Argyll teams. Based in Lochgilphead. Part time position (15 hours per week) Salary £ 17,759 pro rata.

For full details and application form, please visit ACT's website <http://act-now.org.uk/en/our-teams> or email info@act-now.org.uk
Closing date Monday 13th July 2015



Quarriers

Quarriers Ventilation Support Service (Oban)

Quarriers Ventilation Service works in partnership with the NHS and other agencies throughout Scotland.

The service will work alongside a small number of families in remote and rural areas through discrete teams who will be trained to provide ventilation support on a rota basis to children, young people, young people at the point of transition and adults within their own homes.

Ventilation Support Worker (20 hours) £19,414 per annum pro rata Oban Ref 11759

Relief Ventilation Support Workers £10.09 per hour Oban and Fort William Ref 11760

In these challenging roles, you will be part of a team who provide overnight ventilation/suction support to a small child. Working on your own within the family home, there are posts available to work 20 hrs per week, including weekends, to meet the flexibility of the care package and we will also expect you to provide cover for colleagues during periods of holidays or illness. This post requires undertaking personal care tasks.

You should have experience of working with disabled children or adults; have a positive attitude towards all children and young people and have a genuine empathy for parents who need support to care for their child at home.

Please note that IT skills are required for all Quarriers vacancies.

Closing Date: 13th July 2015
Quarriers is a registered Scottish Charity No SC001960.

quarriers.org.uk/jobs



Painters Locations: Helensburgh & Campbeltown
Salary £21,837 to £24,055 Permanent and Temporary posts available

Argyll Homes for All are seeking to recruit a number of qualified, time-served painters to deliver a high quality painter work contract to ACHA tenants.

Based in Helensburgh and Campbeltown, the successful candidates will work as part of an in-house maintenance team covering all areas of Argyll and the islands.

The majority of this work is of a seasonal nature running annually from April to November. There may be some limited opportunities to carry out multi trade work during the winter months, so experience of other trades would be an advantage as would experience in the supervision and training of other staff.

A full driving licence is essential for the Painter posts. In addition, the successful candidates will be subject to a basic Disclosure Scotland check.

Closing Date for all posts: 12 noon on Friday 10th July 2015
For further information about these posts or for an informal chat please contact John Forbes, Managing Director on 01546 605899 or email John.Forbes@aha.co.uk

For full details and to apply visit our website at www.acha.co.uk/recruitment
If you are unable to access the website contact the Recruitment Team:
Tel 01546 605917 or email recruitment@acha.co.uk



Education & Outreach Officer

£24,000 per annum pro rata (0.7 FTE)

An exciting opportunity has arisen at Kilmarin Museum for a part time Education Officer. The post is permanent and the post holder will job share with an existing staff member. The role will focus on delivering the Museum's very successful archaeological and natural heritage education programme, working with schools, adult learners and volunteers. The service delivers activities in the Museum and in various outdoor locations.

For an application pack, please see the 'Get Involved' section of our website (www.kilmarin.org) or e- admin@kilmarin.org.

Closing date 13th July 2015, with interviews held the week commencing 20th July 2015.



MULTI-DROP DRIVERS WANTED

SALARY £27,026 working a 5 from 7 rota.

We are looking for professional CPC qualified multi-drop drivers. Based at the Oban depot doing local deliveries.

Forward CV to May Thomson
may.thomson@brake.co.uk

or call 01698 863815 for more information.



Due to continued expansion, Veitchi Interiors require the following skilled operatives for various projects in the Central Belt and North West Scotland.

- Site Supervisors / Working Foreman
- Metframe Installers
- Metsec SFS Installers
- Dry lining Squads
- Joiners
- Labourers

Must have CSCS cards and be time served. Books - In and CIS available.

Please Call 0141 647 9627
Or send your CV to: interiors@veitchi.com



We are now looking to recruit for the following positions:

Accounts Assistant

Ideally part qualified or equivalent by experience. The role will be varied and involve accounts processing, some analysis work, and an element of administration

Trade Foreman

To undertake renovation/construction works

LGV Driver

For general haulage, based at our Oban and Fort William depots
To apply please send a full up to date CV to Christopher Jay using the address details below

Argyll Resources, Torran Gorm, Industrial Estate, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4PL
Tel: 01631 566370 or
Email: christopher@argyllresources.co.uk



have the following vacancies

WORKING FOREMAN

To organise staff and oversee all aspects of construction of Renewable Energy Contracts full driving licence is essential and must be willing to work away from home.

SKILLED LABOUR

To work on Renewable Energy Contracts full driving licence is essential and must be willing to work away from home.

Please apply in writing or by email stating previous experience
FAO Donald MacDonald
D A MacDonald (Contractors) Ltd
Site 13a, Kilmory Industrial Estate
Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RR
Email: donald@damacdonald.co.uk



Accounts Persons Required

Part qualified accountant and an accounts assistant required for our Oban office. Training given as required. Salary dependant on experience & qualifications.

This is an opportunity to join an expanding, busy general practice with clients from all over Argyll, the Highlands and Isles, the appropriate candidates will be able to work on their own initiative and be able to have a good relationship with clients and other staff.

Please email CV to Jean Ainsley CA at jean@ainsleysmith.co.uk



Surfacing Operatives required

Contracting experience is desired although not essential.

Also required, Contracting Supervisor

Please apply with CV to caroline.tollan@breedonaggregates.com or Drop off CV at Breedon Aggregates Ltd, Dunbeg, Oban PA37 1PX



Multi-Skilled Engineer

We are now recruiting a

(must be electrically qualified) at our Campbeltown Creamery.

Please send your CV to recruitment@firstmilk.co.uk by 10th July 2015.

Temporary Seasonal Guides - £8.01

Oban Distillery Visitor Centre, a five star Scottish Tourist Board attraction and the home of Oban Single Malt Whisky, are looking to recruit Temporary Seasonal Guides to carry out tours of the Distillery for visitors.

We are looking to recruit confident individuals who possess a high standard of communication and customer service skills with the ability to work within a team.

We are recruiting for temporary full-time and part-time Sat/Sun roles.

Interested candidates should call Andrea Verrall, Brightwork on 0141 272 8104 or email your CV to andrea.verrall@brightworktd.com. Interviews will be held locally.

Brightwork Ltd offers the services of an employment agency for permanent work and an employment business for temporary work.

Oban Times RECRUITMENT

JOB SEARCH

German girl (18) with good English wants summer job, preferably with children.
Tel: 01586 553804

Campbeltown Picture House

Assistant Accountant

Responsible for accounting, bookkeeping and financial reporting during the redevelopment of the Picture House. Experience in Sage Line 50 is required and knowledge of Charity accounting would be an advantage. This is a freelance contract for 21 months averaging 7hrs/wk. £11 - £13 per hr depending on experience. Deadline: 10 July at 12:00pm.

Heritage Activities Co-ordinator

Responsible for delivering the three year Activity Plan developed as part of the successful Heritage Lottery Fund bid for the restoration of the historic Picture House. Experience managing creative and/or heritage projects and the ability to enthuse a wide range of people is important. Knowledge of cinema, and experience of working with archives would be an advantage. Freelance, 0.5 f.t.e., 36 month contract. £23,500 p.a. pro-rata. Deadline: 24 July at 12:00pm

For more information and details of how to apply, please email The Centenary Project Manager: ron.inglis@craigmount.org.



WK Soudan Ltd require experienced Ground Worker / Excavator Operator

Please apply in writing or by email stating previous experience and qualifications to Kenny Soudan, Cnoc Don, Whitehouse, Tarbert, Argyll, PA29 6XR email: wks@btinternet.com

SUPERVISOR REQUIRED FOR

Stonefield Farm Holidays Coffee Shop & Wigwam Lettings (Tarbert) to undertake daily management & administration duties in a small team. Will suit a person with good people skills, computer literate and previous experience in the hospitality industry, who is seeking a position that is hands on and varied. Up to 40 hrs/week in High Season, but seasonal variation, weekend work required on rota. Salary according to age and experience. Please apply with references and CV to: baravalla@stonefieldfarm.co.uk I.Duncan, Stonefield Farm, Tarbert, Argyll PA296XX.



Customer Assistants/Deckhands

Lochs & rivers, coasts & canals | Sail the real Scotland Seasonal staff required in Oban and Fort William Various shift patterns available Excellent opportunity to work in a customer facing role aboard our tourist boat trips. Would suit friendly, outgoing people who love the outdoors and are passionate about tourism and the outdoors. To apply, please email your CV to julie@clydecruises.com

Oban Times RECRUITMENT

Simmers & Co
Chartered Accountants
Reception and office support
Up to 25 hours per week
We require an individual with a pleasant and professional manner to be the first point of contact for our clients and undertake word processing and general office duties. Knowledge of Microsoft packages would be of advantage but full training will be given. Salary offered will depend on level of experience. Please send CV and a covering letter by 8 July to:
The Staff Partner at
Albany Chambers, Albany Street, Oban PA34 4AL
or by e mail to mail@simmers.co.uk
www.simmers.co.uk

west coast recruitment

d.CARMICHAEL & SONS
BUILDING CONTRACTORS
consult • renovate • build

D.Carmichael and Sons Ltd
require 1 experienced, CSCS
bricklayer and 1 labourer for
immediate start in the Oban area.

Both posts are full-time, permanent positions. Bricklayer applicants must have at least 5 years recent experience, hold a clean driver's licence and have own transportation, as our Company is based 17 miles outside Oban.

Labourer applicants must be CSCS registered, hold a clean driver's licence and have own transportation.

If you are interested in joining a thriving, well-established business, which provides a reliable and high quality service, then please email CV and references from previous employers to info@dcarichaelandsons.co.uk

OES

Due to the award of several long term contracts OES Ltd requires the following personnel:

Apprentice Electricians
Electricians
Current CSCS and relevant grade cards. Domestic, Commercial & Industrial experience preferred.

Trainee Contracts Surveyor
Excellent opportunity for the right candidate, Electrical background preferred, all training provided.

All applications including a copy of your current CV to
Angus MacPherson, Managing Director,
OES Ltd, 19 Stevenson street, Oban, PA34 4RX
amacpherson@oes-group.co.uk

ACHA
Argyll community housing association

Investment Assistant
Lochgilthead
Salary £20,322 - £22,472
35 hours per week
Closing Date: 12 noon on Friday 10th July 2015
Interviews will be held in Lochgilthead on Thursday 23rd July 2015
For further details and to apply visit our website at www.acha.co.uk/recruitment
If you are unable to access the website contact the Recruitment Team:
Tel 01546 605917 or
email.recruitment@acha.co.uk

Engineering Apprenticeships
Glensanda Quarry, Oban
Attractive salary & comprehensive benefits

Owned by Aggregate Industries, Glensanda is the largest granite-producing quarry in Europe. We are looking for four apprentices to join our team and gain valuable hands-on experience working in this challenging and exciting environment.

Over a four year period, you will be offered the opportunity to develop practical skills, working alongside our experienced Engineers as well as working towards a BTEC level 3, with regular visits to College. Self-motivated, with a can do attitude, you will possess 5 Credit Standard Grades (or higher) to include English, a Science and Maths. If you are interested and available to start in September, please contact: apprentice.recruitment@aggregate.com quoting reference: ENGAPPGLN. **Closing date for applications: Friday 3rd July**

public notices

BROWN THOMAS LIMITED
Company Number SC091819

Notice is hereby given that on 20 May 2015 a petition was presented to the Sheriff at Fort William by Derina Joan Chisholm, residing at Meall Mhor, Brecklet, Ballachulish, PH49 4JG craving the Court inter alia, that Brown Thomas Limited, having their Registered Office at 10 Sandyford Place, Glasgow, G3 7NB ("the Company") be wound up by the Court and that interim liquidators be appointed, in which petition the Sheriff at Fort William by interlocutor dated 20 May 2015 appointed all persons having an interest to lodge answers in the hands of the Sheriff Clerk, Fort William, within eight days after intimation, advertisement or service, and by Interlocutor of 5 June 2015 appointed Kenneth Robert Craig, Insolvency Practitioner, and Ken Patullo, Insolvency Practitioner, Begbies Traynor, Third Floor, Finlay House, 10-14 West Nile Street, Glasgow, G1 2PP to be provisional liquidators of the Company with the powers specified in Pts II and III of Sch.4 of the Insolvency Act 1986 (as amended); all of which notice is hereby given.

Levy & McRae, 266 St Vincent Street, Glasgow, G2 5RL
Agents for the Petitioners

CROFTING COMMISSION
COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD
DECROFTING
DIRECTION ISSUED

1 Wilson
12, 13, 14, 15, 16 Unachan, Kilmornaivaig,
0.201 ha and 0.201 ha -
Sites for dwelling houses
4.86.40369 and 4.86.40370
Conditions: 2, 3b and 4

Conditions
(2) To provide a site for a dwellinghouse
(3) Complete enclosure of the land with a stock proof fence within 4 months of:
(b) the proposed development completion
(4) That fence shall be maintained in good order and repair by each successive owner or occupier of the land.

Any person with an interest in the application may appeal against a decision to the Scottish Land Court within 42 days of the date of this advert.

www.highland.gov.uk

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9.30am - 4.30pm Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the SERVICE POINT, LOCHABER HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6EL and online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
15/02276/FUL	Land North West of Moss Cottage Bunree Ornich	Erection of house and detached garage (amended design)
15/02277/FUL	Land 80M North of Heisker Banavie Fort William	Erect dwelling

Time period for comments is 14 days
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk
Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

Argyll Bute COUNCIL

PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, Monday to Friday 9am to 12:30pm and 1:30pm to 5pm. On Wednesdays, the Customer Service Points will open at 10am. At the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
15/00822/PP	Installation of pontoon with associated gangway	Achnamara Connel Oban Argyll and Bute PA37 1PT	Sub Post Office Connel
15/01226/PP	Demolition of existing single storey lean-to extension forming garage and storage building and installation of new oil and pot-ale tanks within new concrete bund, including access stairs to tanks	Distillery House 41 Stafford Street Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 5NH	Oban Area Office
15/01398/PPP	Site for the erection of 4 dwellinghouses	Land West Of Lag An Fhiodhain North Connel Oban Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Ledaig
15/01443/PP	Renewal of planning permission reference 12/00807/PP (erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of new access)	Land South East of Tigh Na Bata Kilmelford Oban Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Kilmelford
15/01542/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and installation of septic tank	Land South West of Collicveach Fasnacloch Appin Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Ledaig
15/01590/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, formation of vehicular access and installation of septic tank	Land North West of Lower Fernoch Kilmehann Tainuill Argyll and Bute PA35 1HG	Sub Post Office Tainuill
15/01605/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, detached garage and formation of new vehicular access	Plot 1 Barnafaochaig Farm Clachan Seil Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Balvicar
15/01660/PP	Alteration to forest track (retrospective)	Glencrenan Estate Fasnacloch Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Ledaig

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
15/01144/PP	Installation of electric car charging point	Car Park Ledaig Tobermory Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute	Tobermory Area Office
15/01589/PP	Installation of telecommunications cabinet (1300mm x 450mm x 800mm)	Land Outside 1 Victoria Street Tobermory Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute	Tobermory Area Office

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00-17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 1A Manse Lochgilthead Brae PA31 8RD, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Argyll and Bute council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk>

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Central Validation Team, 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilthead PA31 8RD.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.

Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

John Davidson (Pipes) Ltd trading as JDP of Townfoot, Longtown, Carlisle, Cumbria, CA6 5LY. Is applying to add an operating centre to keep 2 goods vehicles and 0 trailers at Units 10 & 11 Glengallan Industrial Estate, Glenshellach, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HG. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

69%
of the business community read the regional press

Regional Press
CLOSE TO HOME

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT
Donalda Cameron MacKinnon has registered their croft 9 Upper Scotstoun, Upper Scotstoun, Ardnarmurchan & Sunart on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.
Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 3rd March 2016.
Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C1147.

FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT
Mr Richard Buttrick has registered his croft 3B Uragai, Isle of Colonsay on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.
Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by the 16th March 2016.
Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C 1226.

FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT
Mr Richard Buttrick has registered his croft 3 Uragai, Isle of Colonsay on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.
Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by the 9th March 2016.
Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C 1201.

West Coast **PROPERTY GUIDE**

LETTINGS COMMERCIAL PROPERTY SALES PROPERTY REVIEWS PROPERTY NEWS LOCAL ESTATE AGENTS

Car, Bike, Home and Van Insurance with Adrian Flux

Great Insurance deals for your Car, Bike, Home and Van

Adrian Flux Insurance Services offer a range of policies which reflect the low risk nature of highland life. We can offer you great insurance deals on your car, bike, home and van. Call us today for a free no obligation quote.

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adrianflux.co.uk

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Property Classifieds

Woodburning Stoves

AFFORDABLE
Country Kiln
Woodburning & Multifuel stoves
Delivered Nationwide
01560 483966
www.WoodburningStovesLimited.com

COMMERCIAL

Retail Unit To Let in Oban
Tel Iain
07795 972665

Skye Property Centre
MacDonald House, Somerled Square, Portree, Isle of Skye
Tel: 01478 611 600 Email: enquiries@skypepropertycentre.co.uk

3 HOROUGH COTTAGES, HORVE CASTLEBAY, ISLE OF BARRA HS9 5XQ
A SEMI-DETACHED PROPERTY IN NEED OF MODERNISATION AND UPGRADING. SITUATED IN A RESIDENTIAL AREA OF CASTLEBAY ACCOMMODATION: GROUND FLOOR: ENTRANCE VESTIBULE, LIVING ROOM, DINING ROOM, KITCHEN, WC. UPPER FLOOR: THREE BEDROOMS, SHOWER ROOM
OFFERS: OVER £60,000 ARE INVITED

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR TO ARRANGE A VIEWING CALL 01478 611600

MID ARGYLL - TO RENT - Detached Country House
4 bedrooms, unfurnished, newly decorated and with new carpets throughout. £700 pcm + council tax, No DSS, no pets. References essential.
Landlord reg no 82862/130/19210
Apply in writing to Box No 7 The Oban Times, Lochavullin Estate, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB

Professional Person
looking for accommodation in or around Oban area.
Please contact 01631 568049 (Office hours) for more details

FLAT TO LET CONNELL
2 BEDROOMS
£550pcm + c/tax & bills
No DSS
Tel: 07541 060673
Landlord Reg: 385029/130/18461

WANTED
Minimum 2 Bed house
with grazing land
WANTED
to rent around Oban and Fort William areas.
Telephone: 07444 022489

West Coast **MOTORS** TIMING TIMES

DRIVETIMES SAILING TIMES GARAGES CAR DEALERSHIPS MOTORING NEWS

2005 Fiat Punto



12 months MOT
Full service history
45,250 miles.
£1250 o.n.o.

07919 246199

Suzuki Jimny

Reg Oct 2000, MOT Dec 2015, Red, 82750 miles, private SB number. Highlands
£1,200

Tel: 01463 231995/07900 296766

2011 Ford Transit AWD



140 T330, 6 speed. Electric windows, CD player, immaculate condition inside and out. Only 66,000 miles. Full Bolt shelving system with hot water hand wash, Bolt lighting, fire extinguisher, 1st aid kit, service light and Flettner roof vent. Air con, tow bar. Full set of spare wheels with Pirelli winter tyres, 90% tread. Too much to list.
£10,995+VAT

Tel: 07824 618550

Silhouette



Mark 2, 17ft, with mast, trailer etc
£600

Tel: 01631 564551

Caravan

4 berth touring caravan with full awning
£950 o.n.o.

Telephone: 07733 021318

Mitsubishi Shogun Sport



2.5 Diesel Turbo 72,200m. New MOT and service. Timing belt changed and tow bar fitted last year. Good Tyres and leather seats.
£4500 ono

01770 700592 after 6pm (Arran)

FORD TRANSIT PICK-UP

02 registration, drop side, tail lift and built in tool box at back of cab. MOT for one month.
£Offers

Tel: 01583 421396

Ford Focus, 1.6 diesel



2009, 45,500 miles cheap road tax and great MPG, MOT May 2016, 2 new Michelin front tyres, FSH, 5 seats, 3 owners, very good condition
£4,700

Tel: 07554 113444

Classic 23' Wooden Day Sailer



Classic 23' Wooden Day Sailer Immaculate condition following recent major rebuild. Stored ashore at Ardrihsaig, but ready to go afloat.
£5,000

Tel 01546 603685 / 07468 192195

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LOCAL SERVICES

Happy 40th Jane Marie

And you thought we forgot!!
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BIRTHS

GRANTHAM - Brian and Frances are delighted to announce the arrival of their first grandchild Zoe, daughter of Robin and Krzysia.

MACLEOD - Robert Norman and Nicola MacLeod (née Cannon), Tobermory and Glasgow are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Orla Rose on June 17, 2015. A beautiful wee sister for Magnus. Special thanks to Professor Cameron and his team at the Southern General Maternity Unit.

DEATHS

CLARK - Peacefully at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, on June 12, 2015, June, widow of George Clark. Funeral service was held at St. Oran's Church, Connel. A private cremation to follow later.

CLEGG - William H. Peacefully on June 13, 2015 at the South Glasgow University Hospital, Dr William H Clegg, former General Practitioner, Tobermory, Isle of Mull. Much loved father and friend. Funeral service was held at Cardross Crematorium on Monday, June 22, 2015.

DONN - The family of the late Lloyd Donn, formerly of Oban, would like to thank everyone for their kind expressions of sympathy. Also, a special thank you to Rev. Dugald Cameron for a comforting service, D & A Munn, Funeral Directors for their outstanding professional service and the Rowantree Hotel for their excellent catering. The sum of £293.98 was raised for the RNLI (Oban Branch).

ELLIS - Graham E Ellis After an unique life, passed away June 17, 2015 after a short illness, bravely fought. Funeral service to be held at Salen Parish Church, Salen, Isle of Mull on Tuesday, June 30, 2015 at 11.30am thereafter to Pennygown Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Donations if wished to RNLI Tobermory or Marys Meals.

FULLARTON - It is with great sadness we announce the death of Stephen Fullarton, formerly of Bridge of Orchy. Peacefully with his family at his side on Friday, June 12, 2015 at Moss Park care home, Fort William. Much loved husband, father, grandfather, brother and uncle. The family would like to express their sincere gratitude to everyone at Moss Park who cared for Stevie with great kindness and regard over the past three years.

GALLACHER - Peacefully at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on June 16, 2015, in his 73rd year, John Gallacher, beloved husband of Margaret and dear father of John. Sorely missed.

KENNEDY - Hugh (Eoghan). At the Southern General, Glasgow on June 16, 2015, Hugh, beloved father of Alan and Jean, husband of the late Julie and proud dad of Fiona, Calum, Iain and Angus. Funeral service has taken place in Glasgow.

PARNELL - Née Bullen (1923) at Ballachulish on June 18, 2015, following a short illness. Dorrie, dearly loved mother to Bridget, Elizabeth and Andrew. Women's Land Army, married John Parnell, Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders, thereafter raised her family in Scotland. Outstanding gardener, cook and family party organiser. Happy and close member of local community at Onich and Duror of Appin. Memorial at St. Brides, Onich on July 4 at 2.30pm. Collection for Alzheimer Scotland and Abbeyfield.

PATERSON - Peacefully at Erskine Mains Nursing Home on Tuesday, June 16, 2015, with his family by his side, John Alcorn Paterson, aged 93, (retired Pharmacist, originally of 'Eglantine', Oban and more recently of Kilmalcolm). Beloved husband of Flo, much loved dad of Fiona and Anne, dear father-in-law to Iain and Uncle John to Fiona, Bryan, David, Stephen and families. Following a short committal service at Greenock crematorium

on Friday, June 26, 2015 at 2pm. A service to celebrate John's life will be held at St Columba Church, Kilmalcolm at 3pm to which all are welcome. There will be a retail collection in aid of Erskine.

RITCHIE - Joan aged 91, of 17 Argyll Terrace, Tobermory died peacefully on June 20, 2015. Beloved sister, aunt, great-aunt, great-great-aunt, and friend to many. We will miss her. Funeral service at the Church of Scotland, Tobermory at 12.00pm on Thursday, July 2. Family flowers only. Donations to the RNLI.

SCOBIE - Donald John. Peacefully after a short illness borne with typical courage and dignity, at Forth Valley Royal Hospital on June 18, 2015. Until recently a Consultant Surgeon in Oban. He will be very sorely missed by his wife Emma and his brothers David, Iain and Alistair and their families. The funeral will be private. No flowers please.

THOMSON - Peacefully on Monday, June 22, 2015 at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban in her 100th year Isa Thomson, Morrison Place, Acharacle. Beloved wife of the late Maurice, a loving mother, granny and gan. Funeral service will be held on Saturday, June 27, 2015 at 1pm in Acharacle Parish Church. Enquiries to John McLellan Funeral Directors Tel. 01397 702128

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BURNS - Irene, Gordon and family of the late Henry Burns would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy by cards, telephone calls and flowers following their recent sad loss. A special thanks to Rev Dr Richard Corbett for his kind and comforting words making it such a lovely service. Special thanks to Ward 1 Belford Hospital for the compassionate care Henry received. Thanks also to Mo and Jean for beautiful flower arrangements in church, MacDonald Bros and John Cameron the organist. Sincere thanks to Scott and staff of John McLellan, Funeral Directors for their help and compassion at all times. Finally thanks to all who attended the church and graveside. The sum of £1,000 collected at the church has been donated to Ward 1 Belford Hospital.

CAMPBELL - Ian, Evelyn and Shirley would like to thank most sincerely all relatives, friends and neighbours for the kindness and sympathy shown in the sad passing of their mum Betty (Sinclair). Special thanks to the staff of Ward B whose care and dedication was greatly appreciated. Also to Ian MacInnes and staff of D & A Munn for their caring and dignified funeral arrangements. To Rev. Sheddin for a comforting service, to Graeme MacKechnie and Dalmlally Community Hall for refreshments and to all those who paid their respects at the church and graveside. A total of £435.86 was collected and divided between Kidney UK and Cancer Research.

MACGREGOR - Catherine, Fiona and family would like to thank most sincerely the doctors and nurses of wards B and A and the Lorn and Islands Hospital for the care and kindness received by Donald and the family during his time in hospital. Also thanks to the doctors and nurses of the Lorn Medical Centre for their ongoing care and to cardiac nurse Betty Graham for her continued support over the years. Thanks also to Rev. Dugald Cameron for his services and to Catriona of Hamish Hoey and Son for funeral arrangements.

REVIE - David, Jessie, Janice, Morag, Ann and Elaine profusely thank everyone who lovingly cared for Davie in Corpach and Abbeyfield Nursing Home; all friends who attended St. Andrew's Church; the Revd Alexander Guinness for his comforting service and all who contributed to the thanksgiving for Davie's long life in words, music, friendship and love. To Scott and colleagues at John McLellan Funeral Directors for their excellent care; McDonald Bros for the stunning floral

tributes and Sheila Hancock for her beautiful floral arrangement; finally thanks to Caol Community Centre for the delicious refreshments. The retiring collection for Abbeyfield Nursing Home was £257.20.

WALKER - Alan, Caroline, Amy and Leah would like to extend heartfelt thanks to relatives, friends, neighbours and the Lochaber community for the kindness and overwhelming support shown over the recent sudden and tragic death of Alan. Many thanks for cards, letters, flowers and visits. Special thanks to Dr Jim Douglas, Rev Morag Muirhead, Mike and Jamie of Mike McFall Funeral Directors, Paramedics who attended Alan over the last few months and Alexandra Hotel for the funeral tea. Thanks to all who paid their respects at the church and graveside. The sum of £1,007.01 was donated to Tweeddale Surgery Asthma Clinic.

WINDER - The family of Nancy would like to thank all friends and neighbours for their sympathy cards and kind words. Special thanks to Ward 1 Belford Hospital and Dr Wallace for looking after our mother. The sum of £500 was raised in donations and will go to Ward 1.

MEMORIALS

FERGUSON - In loving memory of Donnie, who died June 26, 2004. Forever in our hearts.

- Ann, John, David, Lorne and family.

HAMILL - In loving memory of Frank Hamill, who passed away June 30, 2010. Resting where no shadows fall Loved and remembered by us all - Isobel, Nicholas, Ryan and Kevin.

MACALLISTER - In loving memory of Bella who died June 23, 2014. Sadly missed.

- Douglas.

MACDONALD - Raymond. June 28, 2014.

Three hundred and sixty five sleepless night without you dad. - Laura and Alan. Fondly remembered.

- Rae.

MACDONALD - In loving memory of our dear brother Raymond.

No one knows how much we miss you

No one knows the bitter pain we have suffered since we lost you

Life has never been the same In our hearts your memory lingers

Sweetly tender, fond and true There is not a day dear brother That we do not think of you. - Earle, Ann, Norma and Russell

MACGILLIVRAY - In loving memory of my dear husband, Duncan, father, father-in-law and granddad who died June 27, 1998.

Words and time we cannot share But in our hearts you are always there.

- Your loving wife Flora and family.

MACINTYRE - In loving memory of my dear mother Mary Ann MacEachen, who passed away June 25, 1998. RIP. The years pass by but memories stay

Loved and remembered always.

- Inserted by her loving daughter Flora.

McGILLIVRAY - Precious memories of my husband Hamish and our dad, passed away June 27, 2010.

As this time comes with sad regret

The day, the hour we will never forget

You slipped away without goodbye Our love for you will never die. Love you always.

- Pat, Raymond and Isabel Ann.

REID - In loving memory of my beloved husband Alasdair, who passed away on June 27, 2009. Always in my thoughts

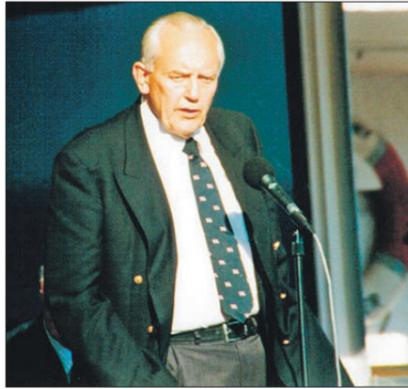
Forever in my heart. - Ann.

STEWART - In loving memory of a dear mother and granny, Nan, who died June 25, 2002.

Gone are the says we used to share but in our hearts you are always there.

- Catherine, Kenneth, Margaret and families.

Lifeboat station mourns loss of president



SADLY MISSED: Dr Bill Clegg at the opening of the new station building in Tobermory in March 1994.

TOBERMORY RNLI lifeboat station is mourning the loss of its president, Dr William (Bill) Clegg, who sadly passed away at the weekend following an illness.

Dr Clegg, who was formerly the local GP in Tobermory for many years, served as the station's honorary medical adviser between 1990 and 1995 and subsequently became Tobermory RNLI's president.

Along with a number of other local people, Dr Clegg played a key role in the re-opening of the station in 1990.

In 2009, he was awarded the RNLI's Silver Badge in recognition of his

services to the Institution and to Tobermory RNLI. Ian Stevens, Tobermory RNLI Lifeboat operations manager said: 'All of us at the station will feel the loss of Dr Clegg very keenly.'

'He was highly respected and held in much affection not only by the crew and station volunteers but also by the wider community in Tobermory.'

'Bill was a big man in so many ways and will leave a huge gap.'

'He will be much missed by all of us and we send our condolences to his family and friends.'

A memorial service for Dr Clegg will be held in Tobermory at a date to be announced.

The Oban Times

& West Highland Times

THE REGIONAL NEWSPAPER FOR THE WEST HIGHLANDS, ISLANDS AND ARGYLL



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GREAT YEAR: Oban boys brigade with volunteer staff, Rev Ken Hunter and councillor Roddy McCuish

Annual Oban BB presentation

THE 1st Oban Boys Brigade held its annual presentation last Friday night in Oban congregational church.

Organised by captain Cameron Harris, the awards are a celebration of the hard work put in by the children over the past year.

Church minister Ken Hunter, gave a talk and prayers and commended the uptake in the organisation, which only

reformed in the town in 2013 and now boasts almost 40 members.

Councillor for Oban south and the Isles Roddy McCuish, who presented the awards, said: 'It's an honour and a privilege to be here presenting these awards in the oldest church in Oban where I, myself, was married 40 years ago.'

'Well done to all the boys for their

achievements over the year and to the volunteers, including Cameron Harris, for reforming the company here in Oban.'

Amongst the winners on the night were Kyle Gibson, who will be leading boy next year, Mark Taylor, who was most improved boy, and Robbie McKay, who was best boy in the junior section.

Award winning choir visits Fort

AN AWARD winning choir from the Czech republic has included Fort William in its UK tour as part of a fund-raiser for the rotary club of Lochaber.

The 50-strong Janacek choir will perform at Duncansburgh Mackintosh church hall on Tuesday July 7, with all proceeds going to organisations supported by the rotary. Tickets are available from any member of the rotary or at the reception of the Alexandra hotel.

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Fair weather sees crowds descend on RNLI fun day



OBAN RNLI held its annual fun day on Saturday, with fair weather bringing in the crowds.

There were fun stalls, home baking, a barbecue and face painting, with other organisations including the coastguard and mountain rescue represented.

Moir Kerr, secretary of the Oban RNLI fundraising group, which organised the event, said: 'It's been a fantastic turnout. People were queuing up at 11am for us opening and it's been a steady flow since. We raised more than £2,500 which will go towards saving lives at sea.'

Right: Rockfield primary pupil Kara Plunkett, 7, from Oban, enjoyed getting a butterfly design painted on her face by Kirsty MacKenzie.

Sir William McAlpine together with the Trustees and Directors of The Steamship Sir Walter Scott Trust and Company would like to extend their sympathy and deepest condolences to the family and friends of former Trustee Graham Ellis who passed over peacefully on the 18th June 2015 aged 91 years

"Wise Sage of Mull"

LOCH KATKINE
Home of the Steamship Sir Walter Scott

GRADUATION

Duncan Angus Gunn of Lorn Drive, Glencoe. Son of Davy and Fiona Gunn, Glencoe. Graduated Bachelor of Engineering, Honours Degree Chemical Engineering, Aberdeen University. Duncan is a former pupil of Glencoe Primary and Lochaber High School.

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Please contact Jack Tollan Birch Hill Achnacreebeag North Connel, PA37 1RE

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Tobermory



GLASS TOP TROPHY: Kathy McAdam and Olive Brown, winners of the Tobermory pairs competition.

The glass top to this trophy has an interesting history. It was discovered in the chimney of a house under renovation in Tobermory, yet it is not thought that anyone who lived there in recent years was a golfer. It was subsequently donated to the Ladies section of Tobermory Golf Club. t25tobgolf1no

Islay

BOWMORE Plate played Sunday June 21 - 1 S Graham 86-17=69; 2 C Holyoake 77-6=71; 3 S Currie 82-11=71. C55 71.

Glencruitten

THE first round of the Club Championship was played last Saturday. Robert MacIntyre scored 59 to lead the event by 6 shots from David McCuish who scored 65. Arvid Fagervold is one shot further behind with a 66.

In the first round of the Handicap Championship Allan MacPhee scored 71 - 10 = 61, as did George MacKenzie with 78 - 17 = 61.

In the Senior Championship first round Ian McCuish scored 70 - 6 = 64 and is the joint leader with Colin Campbell 76 - 12 = 64.

Last Sunday the first round of the George Smith Trophy was played. Ian McCuish scoring 71 - 6 = 65 to lead the way, and Scott Jordan in second place with 75 - 9 = 66.

This Saturday there is an Open Scramble and on Tuesday a Stableford.

Taynuilt

SENIOR Open played Wed 17 June: Ladies - 1 June Sutherland (Dalmally GC) 34 pts; 2 Carol MacLarty (Taynuilt GC) 31 pts; 3 Sandra Elliott (Taynuilt GC) 30 pts
Gents - 1 John Struthers (Hilton Park GC) 37 pts (BH); 2 David Thomson (Taynuilt GC) 37 pts; 3 Ian MacMillan (Taynuilt GC) 34 pts
Ladies Nearest the Pin - Grace Petrie (Taynuilt GC).
Ladies Longest Drive - Shelagh Weatherill (Point Grey GC., Canada)
Gents Longest Drive - Mark Grant (Taynuilt GC); Gents Nearest the Pin: Robert MacLarty (Taynuilt GC)

Youth games held in Oban



PUPILS from all ten of Argyll and Bute's high schools took part in the youth games in Oban on Monday. Youngsters travelled from as far as Campbeltown and Tiree to take part in the games, between 11am and 3pm. Activities included shinty, rugby, football, badminton, hockey, swimming, dance, basketball, softball and athletics at venues included by Mossfield and Atlantis leisure centre. Karen MacCorquodale, Active Schools co-ordinator for Argyll and Bute council said: 'Well done to the participants in this year's youth games. Yet again the standard was incredibly high.' Pictured are youngsters at the start of a relay race at Mossfield Stadium. Results next week. 16_126relayrace01



Prizewinners from the Taynuilt Senior Open

Oban Athletic lose out in last game of the season

Oban Athletic	1
Corkerhill	3
West of Scotland AFL	3

OBAN Athletic played their last game of the season last Saturday at home against league leaders Corkerhill on Glen 2.

The game was sponsored by the Half Way Filling Station and the match referee was John Stobbo who had a good game.

The Oban team started on the front foot and after ten minutes scored after good work in midfield by David Smith and Fraser McFarlane. Frazier played the ball through to Paul Carmichael

on the left wing, who beat his marker and ran into the penalty area beating the center half and then shooting into the left hand corner of the net leaving the keeper no chance.

Corkerhill levelled the match on the half hour mark with a break down the Athletic right hand side. A low cross from the 'Hill' winger was misjudged by the defence before the ball struck Craig Campbell on the shin and deflected past keeper Graham Douglas to make the half time score 1-1.

The second half started with Corkerhill going all out for the

second goal but good defending by the home defence kept the scoreline level until the 65min after Stephen Kelly headed the ball away from a corner. The ball landing perfectly for the Corkerhill left back and from fully thirty yards he sent an unstoppable curling shot into the top right hand corner of the net.

Frustrated
The Oban side tried to get themselves back into the game but were getting frustrated as too many final passes were going astray, plus good defending by the visitors dented the Athletic attack.

In the 85th minute disaster for Oban as a late tackle from Andy Smith in the penalty box was judged to be a foul and John Stobbo pointed to the penalty spot.

Darver Reid stepped up to take it and shot to the right hand side of goal but Graham Douglas pulled off a great save. The rebound landed back at Reid's feet but his shot was again saved by Douglas and before Craig Campbell could get a block in Andrew Waldrum tapped the loose ball into the net from two yards to make the final score 3-1.

The result means Corkerhill

Football

are league winners with Athletic finishing third.

Oban Athletic would like to thank Collette and the Woodside Bar, D & K Lafferty Contractors, McQueen Brothers, Argyll and Bute health and well being fund, NHS cardiovascular fund and Argyll and Bute Council for their sponsorship and help throughout the year as without such support the club could not survive.

Pre-season training will start mid July with fixtures being announced later.

Island golf clubs play for Western Approaches and Cadden Cups

PICTURED are competitors in this year's tournaments for The Western Approaches Cup and The Cadden Cup, played between Tobermory Golf Club, Isle of Mull and Vaul Golf Club, Tiree.

This year it was Tiree's turn to host the weekend. Their hospitality has become the stuff of legends

and this year it was as good as ever. Winner of the Western Approaches was Donald Brown, Tobermory with 41 points while Tiree emerged victorious in the team competition for The Cadden Cup, which they won 3 1/2 points to 2 1/2.



Preparations well under way for D&K Cup tournament

HEART of Midlothian FC, newly promoted to the Scottish Premier League, will make a welcome return to the annual D & K Lafferty Tournament to be held in Oban on Saturday July 11. The Edinburgh side last made an appearance in 2012 when they won the impressive trophy but were unable to defend it in 2013 due to the turmoil the Edinburgh club was in.

Oban Saints club secretary David Buchanan who organises the tournament said: 'We are delighted that Hearts are back in the competition. They will be taking a squad of 24 first team players and 10 staff to the tour-

nament and are looking forward to competing in Oban again.'

David said: 'Craig Levein is no stranger to Oban and has backed our tournament for a number of years taking the Dundee United first team squad on three occasions when he was the manager at Tannadice so we are delighted that he has decided to come back again, this time with Hearts.'

Three SPL teams
'This means we have three SPL teams as well as Hearts taking part - Dundee United, St Johnstone and Hamilton Accies along with Scottish First Division Alloa Athletic.
'Hamilton and Alloa will also

be taking their first team squads to Oban with United and St Johnstone fielding mainly under 20 squads strengthened by several first team players.'

Saints have organised an impressive pre-season schedule where new manager Alex Craik will be able to have a good look at all his squad.

Apart from the D&K Cup they will play games against Vale of Leven Juniors on Saturday July 18 then take on Central Scottish League outfit East Kilbride the following Saturday. Both these games will be in Oban.

On Saturday August 1 they travel to Rhu to take part in the

Football

the Rhu tournament. They will play against Greenock HSEF, Dumbarton Accies and host side Rhu.

Then on Saturday August 8 they take part in the Argyll and Bute Cup being held in Lochgilphead this year. Teams taking part will be Campbeltown Pupils, Oban Saints; Lochgilphead Red Star, Tarbert, Dunoon Amateurs, Dunoon Athletic, Rothesay Brandane and Oban Athletic.

The Scottish Amateur League season kicks off on Saturday August 15.

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Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses. The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter. Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB



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Celtic Society Cup Final

Saturday 27th June, 2015

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Oban Camanachd TEAM NEWS

1 Robert Dunnings 2 Craig MacMillan 3 Daniel Cameron 4 Garry MacKerracher 5 Garry Lord 6 Keith MacMillan 7 Scott MacMillan 8 David Lafferty 9 Lorn Dickie 10 Conner Howe 11 Aiden MacIntyre 12 Andrew McCuish 13 Scott McKillop 14 James MacMillan 15 Malcolm Clark 16 Robert Alexander 17 Gavin Stobbart



**GREGOR CAMERON CONSULTANCY LTD
CELTIC SOCIETY CUP**

Kyles Athletic TEAM NEWS

1 John Whyte 2 Calum Millar 3 Donald 4 Cammy Keith 5 Andrew King 6 Thomas Whyte 7 David Zavorani 8 Robbie Macleod 9 Grant Irvine 10 Roddy MacDonald 11 Gordon Whyte 12 Duncan Kerr 14 Robert Zavorani 15 Matthew MacColl 16 Innes MacDonald 17 Rupert Williamson 18 Ross Macrae

TAYNUILT is gearing up for the 11th Glasgow Celtic Society cup final, shinty's oldest competition, on Saturday, June 27, with a new venue and new sponsor. Gregor Cameron Consultancy is sponsoring the event, which will be held at Taynuilt's new sports venue for the first time. This is the eighth time Oban Camanachd and Kyles Athletic have met in the final; Camanachd won in 1989, 1990 and 1997. Kyles won in 1977, 1979, 1986 and 2011. Kyles have the record of playing in 49 finals, winning 31 times; Oban have

played in 23 finals, winning 14 times. The teams met earlier this season in the Premier League when Kyles won 3-1 at Mossfield. Kyles have played 11 matches in all competitions this season, winning eight, drawing one and losing two. Oban have played 12 matches, winning six and losing six. Kyles scored 12 goals in the Celtic Cup in earlier rounds, conceding none. Oban have scored 11 goals in earlier rounds, conceding three. Only four of the Kyles squad have yet to win a Celtic Cup medal. None of the Oban squad have been in a Celtic

Cup winning team. Calum Millar is the Kyles captain, while Andrew McCuish captains Oban. Oban team manager Gus Campbell won six Celtic Cup medals with his club, while assistant manager Ian Hay won one. Neither Kyles manager Norman MacDonald, nor coach James Perlich has won a Celtic Cup medal as a player. The referee is Billy Wotherspoon, who refereed his first final in 2011 when Kyles beat Oban 2-1 at Inveraray. Goal judges are Lachie Wood and Robert Baxter. The fourth

official is John MacGregor. This is the first time the Gregor Cameron Consultancy Ltd. has sponsored a sporting event. Company director Gregor Cameron played for Inveraray club between 1986 to 1995. Seven of the Kyles team who won the cup 50 years ago will be guests of Glasgow Celtic Society. The 'Man of the Match' will be presented with the Donald J MacNiven Memorial Medal. Piper for the occasion is James MacPherson, who plays on the Argyll Ceilidh Trail. The match will be televised live by BBC Alba.

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The Oban Times would like to wish both teams the best of luck for the final

THE GLASGOW CELTIC SOCIETY
The Gregor Cameron Consultancy Celtic Society Cup Final
The oldest competition in the sport
Oban Camanachd v Kyles
Saturday 27 June 2015

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Newtonmore march on in Marine Harvest Premiership

Marine Harvest Premiership

NEWTONMORE remain top of the Marine Harvest Premiership after a 4-2 away win against Fort William at the weekend.

Despite going 1-0 down in the first minute, goals from Glen Mackintosh and Fraser Mackintosh gave Newtonmore the advantage going into the second half. Conor Jones made it 3-1 and then Chris Sellar all but finished off Fort with a goal in the 85th minute, although Fort William did manage a consolation three minutes from time to round off an entertaining game at An Aird.

This Saturday, P J Mackintosh's men are red-hot favourites as they take on Kilmallie in the Macaulay Cup quarter final, with throw-up at 3pm at Canal Park.

FORT WILLIAM'S winning streak came to an end on Saturday when they lost 4-2 to Premiership champions Newtonmore.

Home advantage and a first-minute goal from Gordie MacKinnon was not enough for the An Aird side as the visitors put four in the back of the net.

Victor Smith's men have a derby to look forward to on Saturday when they take on neighbouring Lochaber at Spean Bridge in a Premiership clash.

The Fort are just one point ahead of Lochaber in the league table so both teams have everything to play for.

KINGUSSIE lost their fourth tie this season with Lochaber going down 2-1 after a goal less draw the week before.

The first half was a re-run of last week with no goals in the first 45 minutes.

Lochaber must have had a stern talking to during the break because Kevin Ferguson came out and scored in a minute.

Four Kingussie players failed to take the ball from Shaun Nicholson before he scored the second on the 56th minute.

Savio Genini gave Kingussie a consolation goal in the 78th minute. Four teams now have nine points in the league but Kyles has four games in hand over Lochaber and three over the others.

Kingussie will need to be on top form this Saturday when they take on second from top Lovat in a Macaulay Cup quarter final tie.

Manager Russell Jones said: 'It will be a tough game, we have not beaten them all season but we have the advantage of being at home.'

LOCHABER secured their third win of the Premiership this weekend, thanks to a 2-1 victory over Kingussie.

Goals from Kevin Ferguson and Shaun Nicholson secured the fate of the Spean Bridge side and a goal from Savio Genini wasn't enough to pull it back from Kingussie.

This weekend Lochaber will welcome Fort William in a Premiership derby. Ally Ferguson's men are just one point below their An Aird rivals but with an 11 goal difference.

GLENURQUHART buoyed up by their victory in the RBS MacTavish Cup had their best game of the season last Saturday beating Kinlochshiel 5-1.

Ewan Brady started the scoring for Glen on the 22nd minute. At first it looked like 'Shiel would stay in the game when they



ENTERTAINING: Kyles Athletic's Callum Miller and Inveraray's Euan McMurdo in action during the Artemis Cup Macaulay Cup quarter final at the Winterton. The Royal Burgh side won an entertaining game 3-2. Photo: Stephen Lawson

equalised through Ali Nixon seven minutes later.

But between the 39th and 42nd minute 'Shiel let their guard drop and Glen scored three. Neale Reid struck the ball between Scott Kennedy's legs, Brady took his second two minutes later and immediately after the throw up played a ball to Fraser Heath which he slammed into the top of the net to make it 4-1.

Substitute Eddie Tembo scored the fifth.

Glen now have a week off until they meet Kingussie on July 4.

KINLOCHSHIEL met a revitalised Glenurquhart last Saturday who took five goals off them.

It was a turn around for Glen who only managed a 1-1 draw the last time the two sides met in March.

Ali Nixon's 29th minute goal was the only ray of light for 'Shiel who now join Kingussie in mid-table with nine points from a corresponding number of matches.

On Saturday they face Inveraray whose squad is back to full strength and should provide formidable opposition.

LOVAT recorded a 2-0 victory over Oban Camanachd to leave them just two points behind league leaders Newtonmore, but their attention this weekend turns to the Artemis Macaulay Cup, where they must travel to face Kingussie in the quarter-finals.

Earlier this season Lovat beat Kingussie 6-1 in the league at Balgait Park, but a 2-2 draw in the return fixture at The Dell suggests it could be a close cup clash with a place in the last four at stake.

OBAN CAMANACHD are aiming for revenge on Saturday over Kyles Athletic in the Gregor Cameron Consultancy Celtic Society Cup Final. Manager Gussie



SURROUNDED: Former Oban Camanachd player Mattie Rippon now playing for Inverness is surrounded by three Glasgow Mid Argyll players - Brian Slattery, Ewan Murray and Innes MacMillan during last Saturday's Balliemore Cup semi final. The Glasgow side ran out 3-0 winners. Photo: Donald Cameron

Campbell has been frustrated by his side's lack of form in the league this season after their latest defeat, a 2-0 loss at Lovat, but says performances have been markedly better than results.

Campbell said: 'We lost last week, but the Lovat keeper had a terrific game and earlier this season we went down 3-1 to Kyles in a match which was much tighter than the score line would suggest.'

'Five years ago we got beat 2-1 by Kyles in the Celtic Society Cup Final so we would love to get one over them this time. They are a very useful side though and we know we will have to take our chances if we are to win this time.'

Oban are bottom of the Marine Harvest Premiership, but Campbell insists there is still plenty of time for them to avoid relegation. 'There is no sense of panic as

Kilmallie have a fight on their hands again this weekend when they welcome Premiership champions Newtonmore for the quarter final of the Macaulay Cup.

With three men missing and a potential fourth, MacPherson said there is no room for injury at Canal parks on Saturday 'I've got a big loss on my hands this weekend, most of the defence will be missing which is going to make a hard game even harder. I've got boys who can fill in for them but it means we're thin on the bench.'

SKYE will be taking on Beaulieu on a high this weekend after thrashing Ballachulish 12-0 on Saturday.

Manager John MacLeod said: 'It was a really good game for us at the weekend, it was good to see some of the forwards fire in some goals.'

'I felt sorry for Ballachulish because a couple of their boys let them down at the last minute but it was a brilliant result for us.'

This weekend the islanders will welcome Beaulieu to Portree in what MacLeod said will be a close game.

He said: 'We beat Beaulieu at home not long ago but they're a good side and they'll be on a high after getting through to the final this weekend so I think it will be really close.'

South Division One INVERARAY reserves had a successful journey to Glenorchy on Tuesday last week winning 4-0.

Shinty

we have only played twice at home this season so we have got lots of home points to play for. Our problem has been we are creating opportunities, but not taking them. If we can start taking our chances our position in the league will begin to look a lot better.'

National Division

BALLACHULISH ran second in the table Skye close in last year's Balliemore Cup final, but they were not looking forward to this year's fixture after recent results.

Their apprehension was well placed and they were completely outplayed in Portree.

Ballachulish only had five players left from their Balliemore squad and had to augment this with eight youngsters so never really had a chance of competing with a strong Skye team.

Jordan Murchison and Will Cowie scored eight between them, with Iain Nicholson picking up a couple and Kennys Macleod and Campbell score one each.

Balla' travel up the A82 for a league tie with Inverness at Bught Park on Saturday and will be trying to turn round the 3-0 loss they suffered last month.

KILMALLIE are out of the Balliemore cup after going down 4-3 to Beaulieu in the semi-final at the weekend.

The Lochaber side were a man down for most of the second half allowing their Inverness opponents to score the points needed to take a place in the final but manager Mark MacPherson said it was a close game.

He added: 'Even being a man down for the last 40 minutes it was still close, there's not much between us at all. The boys did their pans in trying to get the win but it wasn't to be.'



CAMAN COMBAT: Action from the Marine Harvest Premiership match at An Aird between Fort William and Newtonmore. Our photo shows Fort's Niall MacPhee and Gordie MacKinnon with Newtonmore's Rory Kennedy and Liam Mullender. The men from Badenoch won 4-2. Photo: Neil Paterson

Aberdeen Considine Cup semi-final - 'Aray losing 3-0.

Calum Stewart put 'More in the lead and in the last 15 minutes John MacKenzie and Conor Jones put the game firmly out of reach.

'Aray make to short journey to Ganavaig Park on Saturday for a league tie with Oban Celtic.

STRACHUR suffered another disappointing loss against Oban Celtic last Saturday. The Cowal side were two players down as Alan Paterson completed a two match ban and Andrew Wilson started a suspension.

Donald Campbell and Daniel Madej got Oban off to a good start but a successful penalty for Iain Wilson brought Strachur back in just before the break.

Campbell completed his hat trick in the second half and Madej scored a second. Strachur travel to Glenorchy for a 1pm throw-up on Saturday.

KILMORY faced a rampant Bute side last Saturday as they went down 5-0 at home.

Former Lovat star Duncan Davidson, now living and working on the Isle slammed four past the Kilmory keeper, with a fifth coming from Neil McKirdy.

Bute remain unbeaten with seven points from four games with plenty in hand to challenge the league leaders.

Kilmory have a chance to make amends this Saturday when they travel to Bute for a return tie.

GLENORCHY gave away seven goals in a four day period first going down 4-0 to Inveraray on Tuesday last week and then giving Aberdeen three for only one back last Saturday.

They had another busy week in prospect, and as the Times go to press, they will be playing Oban Celtic with Strachur to follow next weekend.

OBAN CELTIC added to Strachur's woes last Saturday with a five goal victory.

The win made it five from five in the league and left them fourth in the table but with games in hand over all the sides above them surely they will climb higher.

Celtic gained the early advantage through Donald Campbell and Daniel Madej before Strachur's Iain Wilson scored from a penalty.

In the second half Campbell put two away to complete his hat trick and Madej added a second. They will have met Glenorchy

Marine Harvest Premiership

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newtonmore	8	7	0	1	31	7	14
Lovat	11	5	2	4	27	24	12
Fort William	10	4	2	4	17	18	10
Kyles Athletic	6	4	1	1	18	7	9
Kinlochshiel	9	3	3	3	14	17	9
Kingussie	9	3	3	3	14	18	9
Lochaber	10	3	3	4	14	26	9
Glenurquhart	7	3	1	3	13	13	7
Inveraray	7	1	1	5	6	16	3
Oban Camanachd	7	1	0	6	7	15	2

on Tuesday as the Times goes to press and have a 1pm throw up against Inveraray on Saturday.

BUTE battered Kilmory thanks to their ringer former Premiership Lovat player Duncan Davidson who took a quartet of goals.

Neil McKirdy added a fifth. Bute entertain Kilmory on Saturday for a return tie.

TAYNUILT went down 4-1 at home to Kyles last Saturday. Stuart Scott got Taynuilt's goal. They have no game scheduled for this Saturday.

North Division Two

GLENGARRY shared the points in a 2-2 draw at home to Skye last weekend. This Saturday they travel across the Minch to take on Lewis Camanachd

Macaulay Cup

INVERARAY beat Kyles to book a place in the last four of the Macaulay Cup and will meet Oban Camanachd on July 25.

Chris Crawford opened the scoring for 'Aray just seconds into the game but 13 minutes later Kyles equalised through Roddy MacDonald's strike.

A second 'Aray goal from David Robertson three minutes later put the Royal Burgh into the lead again where they stayed to the break.

Euan McMurdo gave 'Aray a two goal cushion on the 62nd minute but Kyles were back in the fray a couple of minutes later through Gordon Whyte.

Inveraray were not about to give up and their strong defence repulsed Kyles for one of their best wins of the season.

'Aray face Kinlochshiel for the first time on Saturday in the Premiership.

KYLES ATHLETIC might have beaten Inveraray in their Celtic

Cup tie but they were unable to stop 'Aray going through to the last four of the Macaulay Cup last Saturday.

From 3-2 in the 62nd minute Kyles were unable to break through the 'Aray defence and the best team on the day won.

Taynuilt sports field will be the place to be on Saturday. Oban Camanachd, currently bottom of the Premiership, will attempt to wrest the Celtic Cup off holders Kyles.

Sutherland Cup

LOCHSIDE ROVERS have no game this weekend, giving manager Gareth Evans a full week to gear his side up to face rivals Oban Celtic on July 4.

Rovers remain undefeated this season, turning around a 3-1 deficit to win 4-3 against Fort William's second team on Saturday in the Sutherland Cup semi final, with goals from Iain MacMillan, Brian MacCallum, Michael MacQueen and a Daniel MacVicar goal, two minutes from time, sealing the win.

Evans said: 'With Inveraray and Newtonmore in the other semi, people were assuming it would be an all-north affair, but now it will be us who take on Inveraray in the final.'

'At 3-1 down, if we lost another goal I don't think we could have brought it back but when we got our second goal, I knew it was doable.

'All respect to Fort William at the end because their lads said that we thoroughly deserved the win.'

Discussing the Celtic tie, in which both teams have a perfect league record, Evans said: 'It puts things into perspective a bit when you consider that we are just a junior team and Celtic are a senior team.'

'They should really be a lot stronger than us, so it will be interesting to see how it goes.'

Fixtures

Saturday 27th June
Gregor Cameron Consultancy Celtic Society Cup Final
Oban Caman v Kyles Athletic
Billy Wotherspoon - 4pm
Playing Field, Taynuilt

Artemis Macaulay Cup Quarter Final North
Kilmallie v Newtonmore
Evan MacRae - 3pm
Kingussie v Lovat
Ron Kennedy - 3pm

Bullough Cup 2nd Round
Aberdour v Col Glen
Alan Harrison

Marine Harvest Premiership
Kinlochshiel v Inveraray
Deek Cameron
Lochaber v Fort William
John Angus Gillies

Marine Harvest National Division
Caberfeidh v Inverness
Innes Wood
Skye v Beaulieu
Calum Girvan - 12pm

Marine Harvest North Division 1
Glenurquhart v Fort William
Archie Ritchie
Kingussie v Beaulieu
Andy MacLean - 12pm
Newtonmore v Kinlochshiel
Martin MacLean
Strathglass v Lochcarron
John Matheson

Marine Harvest South Division 1
Bute v Kilmory
David Mitchell
Glenorchy v Strachur
Robert Baxter - 1pm
Oban Celtic v Inveraray
Graham Cameron - 1pm

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Boleskine v John Wood
Inverness v Strathspay
Willie MacDonald
Kilmallie v Caberfeidh
Jon Gallagher - 12pm
Lewis v Glengarry
Ronnie Campbell
Skye v Aberdeen University
Scot McNeil - 3pm

Throw ups 2.00 unless stated

Results

Tuesday 16th June
Marine Harvest South Division 1
Glenorchy 0 - 4 Inveraray

Thursday 18th June
Marine Harvest South Division 2
Glenorchy 1 - 1 Ballachulish

Friday 19th June
Marine Harvest North Division 1
Lovat 0 - 2 Beaulieu

Saturday 20th June
Artemis Macaulay Cup Quarter Final South
Inveraray 3 - 2 Kyles Athletic

Balliemore Cup Semi Finals
Inverness 0 - 3 Glasgow MA
Kilmallie 3 - 4 Beaulieu

Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup Semi Finals
Fort William 3 Lochside Rvrs 4
Inveraray 0 - 3 Newtonmore

Bullough Cup 1st Round
Glasgow MA 0 - 7 SCOTS Cam

Marine Harvest Premiership
Glenurquhart 5 - 1 Kinlochshiel
Lovat 2 - 0 Oban Camanachd
Fort William 2 - 4 Newtonmore
Kingussie 1 - 2 Lochaber

Marine Harvest National Division
Skye 12 - 0 Ballachulish

Marine Harvest North Division 1
Kinlochshiel 0 - 2 Glenurquhart
Kingussie 6 - 2 Lochcarron

Marine Harvest South Division 1
Aberdour 3 - 1 Glenorchy
Kilmory 0 - 5 Bute
Kyles Athletic 4 - 1 Taynuilt
Strachur 1 - 5 Oban Celtic

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Aberdeen Uni 1 - 3 Lochaber
Boleskine 8 - 1 Inverness
Glengarry 2 - 2 Skye
Strathspay 1 - 6 Caberfeidh

Marine Harvest South Division 2
Bute 7 - 0 Aberdour
Tayforth 5 - 0 Col Glen



NEW STRIP: Oban Camanachd under 17s pictured in their new strip kindly sponsorship by the Ryan MacPhail Memorial Fund. Ryan's father Alan, back row centre, presented the strip to the team
Photo: Kevin McGlynn

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Saints appoint Alex as the new team manager

'We need to do well in the national cups but with the players we have here, we need to win the league on a regular basis'

NEW Oban Saints boss Alex Craik has warned his players there could be a surprise addition to their line-up when they take on Hearts next month - himself. Craik has been a lifelong Hearts fan and even though he has now hung up his boots, the chance to play against the Scottish Premier League giants might be too tempting. Having turned 40, Craik was planning on picking himself this season only in the direst of emergencies, but having watched Hearts since he was a schoolboy, the opportunity to test himself against some of his heroes could well prove too enticing. 'If the players come into the dressing room before kick-off and there is an unusual name on the team sheet, namely me, I've told them not to be too shocked,' said Craik. 'I was determined only to play this season if we were down to the last few bodies, but who knows? Hearts are bringing

their first team so don't blame me if I mysteriously get picked. It promises to be an amazing day for the club and one which will really put us on the football map.' The pre-season tournament at Mossfield stadium on July 11 features six sides; Saints, Hearts, Alloa, Hamilton, Dundee United, St Johnstone, a remarkable line-up, which excites Craik. **Top class** 'It's incredible and something the town will no doubt come and support in big numbers. We know Hamilton, Alloa and Hearts are all bringing their first teams, so the standard of football will be top class. To have four Scottish Premier League sides come to Oban is fantastic.' For Craik, it is the perfect start to his new appointment, taking over from Iain Jackson, who retired at the end of last season after Saints finished third in the Scottish Amateur Football League Premier Division.

Football

For Saints stalwart Craik it will herald a welcome move from defence, to the dug-out, although the Oban High School teacher had to get clearance first from his wife, a former Scotland international shinty player. He said: 'I told my wife Carrie the good news is I won't be playing football any longer. Then I said the other news is that I'm going to be the new manager! My two boys were in the living room at the time, but they soon got sent upstairs. In all seriousness, my wife is exceptionally supportive, although I think at first she thought I might be giving the game up and we would have our weekends back. 'It will be very different being the manager, strange for the players and for me. But once I get the first team talk out the way I'm sure I will get used to it quickly,



NEW BOSS: Oban Saints manager Alex Craik in action last season.

although all my plans of playing nice football could go out in the window in our first game if we are getting stuffed by Hearts! 'Whatever happens in the pre-season tournament though, it is a landmark for the club and all the players are massively looking forward to it.'

As for the regular season, Craik has lofty ambitions. 'We have got some of the best players in the league and although we have won it recently, we should be topping the table more regularly. That has got to be our aim. We need to do well in the national cups but with the players we have here,

we need to win the league on a regular basis' Alex will not be a one man managerial band, his assistant will be Donnie Campbell with added support from team captain Marc MacCallum. A new coaching and fitness team have also been put in place - Peter MacCallum, Keith

Millar and Jamie Graham. Club secretary David Buchanan said: 'Obviously replacing Iain was going to be difficult but I'm sure Alex is the right man for the job. He has bags of experience as a player and the boys can't wait to get back training and playing under the new gaffer.'

Innis nets five as Park primary win MacKay Cup

OBAN'S Park Primary School added the MacKay Cup to the First Shinty National Indoor Title they won last year with Innis MacMillan scoring five goals in a thumping 7-1 victory over Newtonmore. Coach Yvonne MacKechnie said: 'It was a very competitive game and the Newtonmore keeper made several very good saves. I don't think 7-1 was a very fair reflection as our opponents were very strong, although we finished our chances. We are delighted to have added the MacKay Cup to the indoor title and it is the perfect way to end the school year.'

School shinty

Park school were 4-1 up at half-time and with Innis MacMillan scoring two more, plus an Adam Munro strike, the cup was won in some style. Yvonne said: 'Innis is shinty daft so well done to him and the rest of the team. They were all really excellent and the cup was a deserved reward for lots of hard work.' Innis MacMillan won the Ann Cameron Quaich Trophy as man of the man and captain Ryan Barclay received the MacKay Cup.



SILVERWARE: Park primary school proud winners of the MacKay Cup. Coach Alan MacKechnie, back row left, has now won the cup both as a player and a coach

Sporting facilities in Oban meeting

Facilities

A MEETING to discuss sports facilities in the Oban area has been organised for Monday June 29 at Oban Fire Station starting at 6.30pm. Matters up for discussion will be a proposed extension to the pitch and possible changing facilities at North Connel; the new pitches at Oban high school; communication problems with the council's pitch booking system; funding applications to SportScotland. This will be third of a series of meetings called by the council and a full turnout of clubs is requested.

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BOWLED OVER: Winners of the MacCalman Trophy held at Oban Bowling Club on Sunday were from left to right - Duncan MacCall, Colin Carmichael and John McLaren

Oban Lorne look forward to the new season

WITH the 2015/16 league fixtures recently being announced, Oban Lorne RFC have stepped up their preparations for the season ahead. A well attended players meeting last week saw the management and coaching team announce their plans for the season along with news on player recruitment and the continuing development of Argyll and Bute RFC who will play their second season in West Division 4. Oban Lorne will look to continue their success of last season's league championship win and are in confident mood ahead of their first season in West Division 1. A well organised pre-season

plan has been announced with fixtures against Murrayfield Wanderers, Highland, Caitness and a weekend long training camp on Islay to prepare the players for the long season. The team open their campaign with a West Regional Bowl tie against Isle of Arran at Glencruitten on Saturday September 5. Oban's first league fixture will be an away trip to Cambuslang the following weekend followed by a home game against Allan Glens on Saturday September 19. Tasty looking fixtures against Carrick, Glasgow Academicals and Argyll rivals Helensburgh will follow in what is shaping up to be a very entertaining league.

Meanwhile Argyll and Bute will be entering their second successive season of competitive rugby. Oban Lorne RFC will oversee the management and coaching of the team. The team was set up last season as a vehicle for players from Mid Argyll, Oban 2XV, Kintyre, Bute and Islay to play meaningful games. Argyll and Bute play in their first ever Bowl tie on September 5 away to Birkmyre and entertain Cowal from Dunoon in the first league fixture on Saturday September 12 at Glencruitten. The Argyll team will be looking forward to home and away ties with Isle of Mull throughout the season.

Rugby

Oban Lorne Ladies take part in National League 1 this season and start their campaign at home to Glasgow University on September 6. The team have some tough fixtures this season including trips away to Aberdeen and Watsonians. The club's committee for 2015/16 has been confirmed after the recent AGM with Dee Bradbury continuing as president while Murray Hamilton will also continue as vice president. Club membership is now due from all playing and non-playing members.

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WEATHER

Thursday Light rain
Winds light south westerly
Temperatures 11°C to 16°C.

Friday Heavy rain showers
Winds light south south easterly
Temperatures 10°C to 16°C.

Weekend Outlook Heavy rain on Saturday
Light rain showers on Sunday
Winds light south south westerly
Temperatures 11°C to 16°C.

FRIDAY

TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, June 25, 2015** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	06.08 1.9 12.01 2.9 18.01 1.7	** ** *
Fri	00.01 3.0 07.13 1.9 13.28 2.9 18.59 1.8	
Sat	01.28 3.0 08.19 1.8 14.32 3.0 19.59 1.7	
Sun	02.39 3.1 09.15 1.6 15.22 3.2 20.58 1.5	
Mon	03.33 3.3 09.59 1.4 16.06 3.4 21.54 1.3	
Tues	04.20 3.5 10.39 1.2 16.48 3.6 22.44 1.1	
Wed	05.02 3.6 11.17 1.0 17.27 3.8 23.31 0.9	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate



ARDNAMURCHAN PROVINCIAL MOD

RELATIVES CONDEMN LATEST DELAY AS 'SHAMEFUL' BUT NHS HIGHLAND SAYS CENTRE WILL OPEN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

Care home remains closed as another deadline looms



Corpach in Colour celebrates 10 years

Members of Corpach in Colour celebrated ten years of brightening up the Lochaber village this week. The group has spent the last decade organising flower displays and shows no signs of slowing down. From left: Margaret MacIntyre, Margaret Simpson, both founding members, Nicola Muir and Louise Pescod

Thieves struck twice but Canna islanders fight back

BOTH shops on the isle of Canna were robbed at the same time, in the first theft since the 1960s.

Last week the Oban Times reported that thieves had raided the community shop on the Small Isle, which works on an honesty box system, and stole sweets, toiletries, hats and groceries.

It has since been revealed Canna's other

shop, the newly-opened Hebridean Beauty, was also raided on the same night.

But islanders say they will not let the thieves win and don't plan to install CCTV or lock the shops at night.

Colin Irvine, chairman of the Canna community development trust, runs Hebridean Beauty. He said: 'We haven't decided for sure yet, but nobody seems to be keen on

CCTV or locking the door. If we lock up at night we lose business from anyone who needs things at night and the fishermen don't usually arrive until the evening, so it's no use to them. It would be a shame to let the people who did this win.'

An online fundraising page has also been set up to reimburse the loss from the theft and more than £500 has been raised so far.

EMMA CRICHTON
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

MALLAIG care home, the Mackintosh Centre, looks set to miss another date for re-opening in what has been called 'shameful' and 'disgusting' behaviour.

At the end of April, Tracy Ligema NHS Highland area manager for the west, said the centre would be open in 10 weeks, following long-running recruitment problems.

But as that deadline looms closer, there have been no signs of the home opening and former residents remain 42 miles away at Inverneis House in Fort William.

The eight-bed Mackintosh Centre closed in July last year amid allegations of poor practice and, at the time, the health board said it would re-open in four to six weeks. But the doors remain closed almost a year later.

A spokeswoman from NHS Highland confirmed the care home would not re-open next week, the end of the 10 week period, saying additional recruitment caused a further delay.

A source close to families of residents, who asked not to be named, said they have received no updates.

He said: 'The 10 weeks we were promised in April is up next week and there's been no sign of life. This is what we have been going through since early on in the process. We're not getting any information. It's shameful the way they're treating residents and families, shameful and disgusting. These people don't have a lot of years left with their family members and the years they do have shouldn't be spent like this.'

'Every time we speak to someone from the NHS we ask

“Shameful and disgusting behaviour.”
Family spokesperson

for regular updates and every time we get nothing. There's no confidence left. We won't believe it's re-opening now until it actually happens.'

Allan Henderson, Highland councillor for Caol and Mallaig, said he believed things were 'moving in the right direction' but said he was expecting more communication between NHS Highland and residents' families.

He said: 'All I have been told is things are moving in the right direction. I haven't been told anything to make me believe otherwise. In saying that, I would have appreciated, as would everyone else, an update from NHS Highland, just to reassure us that it's all on track.'

The NHS Highland spokeswoman said: 'The centre is still closed, but work continues with staff training and we hope to have some more information on this in the coming weeks. We continue our work to get it open as soon as we can.'

The centre closed when some staff members were suspended pending investigations of alleged poor practice. The investigation has since been completed, but reopening was delayed when newly-recruited staff resigned due to daily commutes of 100 miles for training in Fort William.

TIMESLINE

Sheriff remands Fort teenager

A TEENAGER has been remanded in custody after he was accused of showing police officers gas cylinders, deodorant and other materials designed to form 'the appearance of an explosive device'.

Jack Salter, 17, from Fort William, appeared in the town's sheriff court on Monday charged with behaving in a threatening and abusive manner on Friday, June 19, which caused Ross Place, Upper Achintore, to be evacuated.

Sheriff Richard Davidson heard the accused, of 27 Ross Place, allegedly showed police officers two gas cylinders, a golf club, a scarf, a cloth and deodorant 'arranged to form the appearance of an explosive device' at his home.

The court also heard the occupants of 32 neighbouring properties had to be evacuated. Salter made no plea or declaration and was remanded in custody until his next hearing.

A date for a further hearing had not been set when the Oban Times went to print. Salter also appeared in connection with four road traffic offences.

Musicians take to stage for concert

SOME of Lochaber's finest young traditional musicians will celebrate the area they grew up in with a new concert, Travelling Hills and Glens.

Tutor, Deirdre Beck, said: 'The idea for the concert was heavily influenced by the fact that several of the young musicians with whom I have worked will soon be embarking on new pathways in their lives.'

The event, in the Ben Nevis hotel tonight (Thursday) starts at 7.30pm. Entry is free, with voluntary donations going to Lochaber music school.



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Retail park jigsaw comes together

THE 'final piece of the jigsaw' for a new retail park in Fort William was put into place this week when Highland Council approved a planning application to allow a Marks and Spencers Simply Food store to be built.

The application by developers, Morbaine Limited, to build a £10 million retail park, including Aldi and Home Bargains, on North Road was approved in December last year, bringing an estimated 150 permanent jobs to the area and more during construction.

But Morbaine director, Alex Brodie, said supermarket giant, M&S, had agreed to build a Simply Food store on the site, if the application could be amended to allow another one of the units to be used for food retail.

Highland Council's south planning applications committee approved the amendment on Tuesday and it is hoped work will begin early next year.

The unit will also include a cafe and bureau de change.

Mr Brodie said: 'We are naturally delighted by the decision which will allow us to bring an M&S Simply Food store to Fort William. It represents the final piece of the jigsaw at North Road and we will now look to make progress on the development as quickly as possible, with construction expected to begin in early 2016 with the aim of the retail park opening in time for Christmas 2016.'

'We have had terrific support from local people over the years we have been trying to develop this site. I am delighted we can now start to deliver, not only major new retail options to the area, including Aldi and Home Bargains, in addition to M&S Simply Food, but also the significant local economic benefits associated with the development.'

Lochaber councillors urged their colleagues to approve the amendment at the meeting on Tuesday, in light of Tesco withdrawing their plans for a supermarket in the town earlier this year.

Bill Clark, councillor for Caol and Mallaig said: 'We put all of our eggs in one basket before and that was a mistake but it's something we can rectify today. This needs to go ahead.'

Councillor Andrew Baxter of Fort William and Ardnamurchan added: 'This is a relatively minor change that will provide a huge benefit to local people, particularly now that Tesco has confirmed they won't be developing in Fort William.'

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Pensioner fraudulently claimed £24,000

A PENSIONER who lied on pension credit forms to receive more than £24,000 he was not entitled to has been told he could face jail.

Charles Wright, of Larch Cottage in Strontian, told the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) he only had savings of just over £4,000 and owned no properties, despite owning two houses in Fort William which he later sold for £293,000. This allowed the 72-year-old to fraudulently benefit from £24,340.52 between March 2008 and June 2012.

He admitted the charge in Fort William sheriff court on Monday, after previously pleading not guilty at earlier hearings.

Fiscal deputy, Kelly Bruce, told the court Wright had 'a number of bank accounts' as well as his two properties, which he has since gifted to relatives. She said: 'The accused failed to inform the DWP that he had property and capital which had not been disclosed in the application for pension credit. He had a bank account with an excess of £9,000, but had said on the form he had savings of just over £4,000. A further bank account had in excess of £16,000.'

Defending solicitor, Alistair McGarvey, said Wright admitted he had taken a 'cavalier' approach to his finances. He said: 'He received bad advice from an accountant. Mr Wright believed he had the right to have his state pension topped up, but he knows he took what he described to me as a cavalier approach.'

Sheriff Richard Davidson deferred sentencing for social work reports, but said he was considering a jail sentence: 'The bottom line is if you hadn't abused the system you would not have received this money. There is no other word to describe this than fraud. I must warn you I can't rule out imprisonment.'

Sports centre group 'still optimistic' over funding

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THE GROUP behind the campaign to bring a new indoor sports centre to Fort William say they are 'still optimistic' despite a further three-month delay for funding from Highland council.

The local authority has pledged £850,000 in principle to Lochaber sports association (LSA) towards the multi-use hall and a final decision was supposed to be made in March.

This was postponed until the full council meeting to be held today (Thursday).

But when the papers for the

meeting were released on Friday it showed the funding would not be discussed at the meeting. This means it will be a further three months until September before a decision will be made.

Jane Blanchard, chairwoman of LSA, said she remains positive that the £1.47 million project will go ahead.

She had previously worried that council delays could jeopardise the £500,000 pledged in principle by SportScotland, but believes this funding is secure.

She said: 'I'm still optimistic because I've spoken to SportScotland and they have assured me they are

hanging in there with us. It's slightly disappointing, but it's understandable because the new council has only been formed for a couple of weeks.

'It's only a delay, not a setback. It will only be a setback if the funding is rejected.'

'In the meantime, we're working very hard to make sure when the debate for funding does come to council, we can show the facility at its full potential.'

Ms Blanchard added that the association has been working hard to make progress on other areas while waiting for the funding, including applying for a further £100,000 grant from

the Robertson trust. She said: 'The application will be going to trustees within the next month so if that is approved it will plug the final gap and we should be ready to get started.'

The facility, which was granted planning permission in March, will be sited at Lochaber high school, next to the artificial pitch and two grass pitches. It will encourage schools, sports clubs and the wider community to train all year round, whatever the weather.

But LSA hopes it can also be used for community groups outside the sporting world to help everyone in Lochaber.

Ms Blanchard explained: 'In a way the delays have been a good thing because it has given us time to consult with a number of different groups.'

'We've been speaking to people from the NHS, as well as those who deal with alcoholism, health and wellbeing and a whole other range of issues.'

'Every single one thinks this is a facility with the potential to work for them as well as sports groups.'

A Highland council spokeswoman said: 'The council is appraising the project with the intention of a report going to a future council meeting.'

TIMESLINE

Walker missing for more than a week

CONCERNS are growing for a walker who has been missing in the West Highlands for more than a week.

Stephen Russell was reported missing from Skye but was last seen at the A'Chuil bothy in Glen Dessary, near Spean Bridge, on Sunday June 14, when he said he planned to walk to Fort William.

The 43-year-old, below, is an experienced hill walker described as five feet 10 inches tall, slim built with a shaved head and beard.

A police spokesman said he usually wears a beanie hat and waterproof jacket and carries walking gear.

The spokesman added: 'Information would suggest Stephen was in the Fort William area around June 16 or 17, but has now moved on and may be walking either the West Highland Way towards Glasgow or the Great Glen Way towards Inverness. Anyone with information on Stephen's whereabouts or who believe they may have seen him is urged to contact us on 101.'



Dog show in aid of greyhound trust

A CHARITY dog show is to be held in Fort William to raise money for retired greyhounds.

Lochaber and district canine society's companion dog show in the Nevis Centre on Tuesday, July 7, will feature categories including puppies, gundogs, veteran and waggi tail, with all proceeds going to Skye's retired greyhound trust.

Doors open at 6.30pm and free microchipping will be available on the night.

Stepping out in memory of Lochaber's Waterloo fallen

THE EFFORTS of people from Lochaber who fought and died in the battle of Waterloo were remembered 200 years on at commemorations marking the end of the conflict.

Crowds came together for a memorial walk from Kilmallie hall last Tuesday, organised by Lochaber local history society, followed by a service at the Colonel John Cameron memorial in Corpach, to remember the Fassifern soldier who was shot dead at the battle of Quatre Bras, just two days before the battle of Waterloo.

Before setting off on the walk, led by Lochaber schools pipe band, pupils of Banavie primary school gave a rousing rendition of 'Boney was a Warrior'.

Reverend Richard Corbett rededicated the monument before Ewen Cameron of Glen Nevis laid a wreath.

Mr Cameron's nephew, Sandy Cameron, piped 'Flowers of the Forest'.



ROUSING: Lochaber schools pipe band led the Waterloo walk through Kilmallie 21_f26waterloo01

Another Lochaber man prominent during the battle was major general, Alexander MacDonald of Glencoe, who was remembered at a commemoration at All Saints church in Warwickshire at the weekend.

Major General MacDonald fought at the battle of Quatre Bras and two days later commanded the horse artillery at the battle of Waterloo.

Although from Glencoe, he died unmarried at Leamington Spa, where he was remembered during the commemorations.



REMEMBRANCE: Ewen Cameron, middle, laid a wreath with Roddy Mainland of Lochaber local history society to a tune by his nephew and piper, Sandy Cameron 21_d26waterloo02



FACING THE PUBLIC: the panel of BBC Radio Scotland's Big Debate, which was broadcast live from Fort William on Friday 21_d26debate01

Radio debate comes to Fort William

THE PEOPLE of Fort William had the chance to quiz public figures about the issues of the day when Radio Scotland came to town.

Gordon Brewer hosted the weekly programme the Big Debate from Duncansburgh Mackintosh church hall

on Friday and welcomed the Oban Times editor, Willie Mack, and Peter Murray, Media Scotland's outreach manager for the Media Trust.

Also on the panel, in front of a live audience, were Highlands and Islands MSPs Jamie McGrigor and Dave Stewart,

along with Ian Blackford, MP for Ross, Skye and Lochaber.

The group took questions from the audience and discussed various current affairs including wind farms, NHS Highland and representation of rural areas.

Salmon farm manager leaps away with award

A FEMALE salmon farm manager has won a national award for her work in Lochaber.

Rosie Curtis of Marine Harvest is one of only two female fish farm managers in the country and showed she won't be outdone by her male counterparts when she picked up the prize for best farm manager at the Scottish marine aquaculture awards.

Ms Curtis, who also chairs the West Ardnachan community council and volunteers as watch manager for her local retained firefighting team, manages a team of eight at Camus Glas salmon farm on Loch Sunart.

Alan Sutherland, managing director of Marine Harvest Scotland, said: 'We are delighted that Rosie's success has been recognised at such a prestigious awards ceremony. Her hard work and dedication are second to none and we congratulate her on



'SECOND TO NONE': Marine Harvest's Rosie Curtis won a national award for her work

her award.' Marine Harvest also picked up the stewardship award at the ceremony for a joint project on the use of cleaner fish with Scottish Sea Farms.

ADVERTORIAL

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Local installer, Renewables Now, works closely with customers to provide a renewable heating system that will suit the specific needs of each client. Changing to renewable heating is not a 'one size fits all' solution, so time and care is needed to ensure that your home's heating system is designed to perform just the way you want it to.

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Travel chaos for islands as crews call for walkout

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ISLANDERS are bracing themselves for three days of travel chaos as CalMac ferry workers prepare to strike tomorrow (Friday).

Members of RMT, the transport workers union, met CalMac officials in a last ditch bid to resolve the dispute over pensions and working conditions on Monday, but talks were unsuccessful.

CalMac predicted that the majority of services would run yesterday (Wednesday) and today, but expected major disruption tomorrow, Friday.

Main ferry routes serving Mull, Islay, Bute, Arran, Coll and Tiree will be severely affected, but the strike is expected to have an effect on all 49 of CalMac's ports, including its busiest hub, Oban.

In the interim, CalMac and government agency Transport Scotland have made contact with bus, rail and airline operators to see what additional services can be provided to help mitigate the impact of the strike.

CalMac's managing director, Martin Dorchester, said: 'We are currently working on alternative timetables and contingency plans to ensure disruption to these lifeline services are kept to a minimum. However, the travelling public needs to be aware that disruption is inevitable and should consider carefully whether their trip is essential before travelling this week.'

The strike has come following worker unrest while the tendering process for the next Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Service (CHFS) contract is under way.



TROUBLED WATERS: islanders are anticipating major disruption to CalMac ferry services

The Scottish government has put the £1 billion contract out to tender, which has to happen due to EU law.

CalMac, which has operated the CHFS since the first tender in 2007, and for decades previous to tendering, will go to head-to-head with Serco Caledonian Ferries for the contract.

Final bids will be made in December, with a decision to be announced in May 2016.

RMT's regional manager for Scotland, Gordon Martin, said: 'We are all bitterly disappointed. This is no longer a proposed strike - this is a strike.'

'Our members take this very seriously and this was a hard decision to come to, and we ask that members of the seafaring public support us in our action.'

'The SNP opposed plans for tendering this service when they were in opposition, and now that they are in power, they seem to be all in favour of privatisation. There will be picket lines set up.'

One RMT union member, who asked not to be named, said that there was not universal support for the strike.

He said: 'There are 1,400 members of the CalMac workforce and not all of these people are members of the union. It has created tensions amongst everyone aboard the ship.'

'But the fact of the matter is that the tender process is an absolute nonsense and people are even more unsettled about the long-term future of one of Scotland's assets.'

the Isles, Mary-Jean Devon, who is a resident on Mull, said she had been contacted by worried constituents.

She said: 'On the most part, people on the island seem to be very supportive of the workers in CalMac.'

'One person wrote to me to ask why on earth the government wants to break up one of Scotland's greatest success stories in CalMac by putting the business up for tender.'

'In his letter he said, "it might be that people have complaints and quibbles about CalMac - but at least they are our friends and neighbours and we know that when in need they will pull out all the stops".

'This is a very difficult time for everyone.'

Gruffalo Times



CHILDREN'S book favourite, The Gruffalo, was exploring the deep dark woods of Oban where he met plenty of friends at Waterstone's store last week for a book event. Essential reading was, of course, the Oban Times

TIMESLINE

'People's games' third time success

THE third 'people's games' will take place at Mossfield Stadium this Sunday.

The games officially start the Highland Games season in North Argyll and will see strong men, cute dogs and athletes come to the town to take part.

Lorne Highland Games chairman Duncan MacIntyre said: 'We are looking forward to a great day whatever the weather.'

'There will be something for everyone. Come along and have a great day out.'

Iona housing first in four decades

THE SOD has been cut for the first social housing on Iona for decades.

Iona Housing Partnership welcomed Argyll and Bute council, Link Group and West Highland Housing Association to their sod-cutting ceremony last week.

The social housing will be the first on the island for 40 years.

A hearty help for west coast clubs

THE Scottish Sea Farms 'Heart of the Community' trust has given more than £500,000 to support 136 charities on the west coast since its launch in 2011.

Successful Argyll applicants include Oban Camanachd shinty club and Oban sailing club.

Jurassic World hits cinema's top list

MORE than 1,500 people visited Oban Phoenix Cinema last weekend to see 'Jurassic World'.

The dinosaur fantasy film is one of the best-selling of the year so far at the community-owned cinema. Manager Jennie Larney said: 'Our advice is to book early.'

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Warehouse plan

CONTROVERSIAL expansion plans look likely to go ahead at an Islay distillery after Argyll and Bute council recommended planning approval for the scheme.

The construction of six new warehouses at the Bruichladdich distillery have been met with objections by residents, with one claiming construction traffic would be putting lives at risk due to the width of the roads.

The agenda for the planning, protective services and licensing committee states it is 'recommended that permission be granted subject to the conditions and reasons listed in the main report.'

Objections to the construction of the warehouses, include the scale, height, colour and location of the buildings.

The hearing will take place on Monday, June 29 at Bruichladdich village hall.



PIECE OF HISTORY: Bill Grant, one of the museum's founding members, and Jackie Watt, who first volunteered in 2011 at the age of 17, prepare to cut the cake with World War One bayonets

Museum guests celebrate a piece of living history

OBAN's War and Peace Museum celebrated its 20th anniversary recently.

Around 30 people, mainly past and present volunteers, made up the guest list on Thursday, June 18 in the town's Corran Halls.

Alison Palmer, who is the director of the museum, said: 'We were deciding who to invite

today, and considered a VIP guest speaker.

'But we quickly came to realise that the real VIPs are the guests here today, the people who invest around 7,500 hours of their own time, every year, just to keep the museum open.'

Opened on April 3, 1995, at the old Oban Times building on the

Esplanade, the museum houses a collection of artifacts and photographs depicting the rich cultural history of Oban and its people, during times of conflict and peace.

Guests were treated to refreshments and a birthday cake, provided by local patisserie Bossards.

It's so beautiful but it's also very cold

AMERICAN students enjoyed a sailing day around Kerrera last week as part of their 23rd exchange visit. A dozen students from Laurinburg, North Carolina and Oban High School were treated to a day at sea by Oban sailing club.

American Student Madison Dwyer said: 'It is completely different from Laurinburg. We have to drive four hours to see the mountains and a couple of hours to the beach, so this is very different. It's so beautiful, but it's very cold since temperatures back home at the moment are in the high 30s.'

Students have enjoyed an action-packed schedule, which included visiting Dunstaffnage Castle, Mull and Iona.



WARM WELCOME: American and Oban students celebrate being back on dry land

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Threatened to 'deck' officer

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AN unemployed Oban man with a history of alcohol-fuelled problems, was jailed for four months on Tuesday for hurling a volley of four-lettered abuse at two off-duty police officers.

Thomas Barr, who pleaded guilty to threatening and abusive behaviour, swore repeatedly at the officers at Dunbeg Village Store, in Jane Road, on May 30, after a prolonged drinking session.

He accused the officers of helping to get his son jailed and even threatened to 'deck' one of them.

Procurator fiscal, Eoin McGinty told Oban sheriff court that Barr, 54, became abusive after meeting the two off-duty officers in the shop.

McGinty said: "The witnesses asked the accused to behave himself after he began to make references to his son. Barr said: 'You got him into jail. You are going to get it.'

He then threatened to 'deck' one of the witnesses. Police were called and he walked away, but was arrested at his home address."

Defence lawyer, Laura McManus, said: "He had been drinking and alcohol has plagued him throughout his adult life. The difficulty is alcohol and he has suffered numerous problems in recent years. It is simple, alcohol has caused him to behave this way."

Barr was jailed by Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC for four months.

She said: "You have a history and a long record of alcohol problems and have been in and out of custody."

"It is a case of anything to keep you away from drink."

Accused of knife assault

A 32-year-old man from Alexandria appeared in court on Monday in connection with a stabbing in Oban.

William Douglas, 32, appeared in private at Oban sheriff court accused of assaulting a man in Breadalbane Street in the early hours of Friday morning.

Douglas was charged with punching the man to the head and striking him in the body with a knife, causing serious injury and permanent disfigurement.

He was also charged with having an offensive weapon, namely a knife and possessing cannabis.

Douglas made no plea and was remanded in custody.

Scallop industry will be 'destroyed' by new plans

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A LEADING Argyll councillor says the fishing community has been 'abandoned' by the Scottish government after it announced plans to limit or even stop some shellfishing on the west coast from October 1, this year.

The move, councillor Mary-Jean Devon said, will 'destroy' the historical and lucrative scallop industry that sees shellfish from the west coast served in top restaurants all over the world.

Councillor Mary-Jean Devon, who holds the social work portfolio for Argyll and Bute council, said fishing communities throughout the area will be socially and economically threatened because of the new specifications.

Commenting on the Marine Protected Area (MPA) and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) management measures announced last week by the Scottish government, Ms Devon, from Mull, said people were 'very disappointed' with the outcome.

Councillor Devon had worked with the fishing community as well as those on the onshore facilities on the islands as part of a consultation undertaken



“The final document proves they were not listening at all”

Mary-Jean Devon

by the Scottish government.

Ms Devon said: "The Scottish government came here to listen to our fishermen and we went down to Edinburgh. We really thought they had listened - but the final document proves they were not listening at all."

"They have taken the information they gained from environmentalists, which is important, but the information and expertise from fishing boats that have sailed in these waters for generations has been ignored."

"It was hoped that their

expertise might have been listened to, but instead, people who don't know the area as well as the islanders have made a play that sees our fishing boats abandoned."

"People who depend on the sea for their livelihood need the Scottish government to reconsider. These proposals will cause undue hardship."

Introducing the plans, rural affairs minister, MSP Richard Lochhead, who is responsible for fisheries, said: "Scotland's seas hold a huge range of species and habitats which are important in UK, European, and global terms."

“The impact in the vast majority of cases will mean modest changes”

Richard Lochhead

"They also provide a significant fish and shellfish resource, which are important to the rural economy of Scotland."

"All of these commercial and non-commercial species are dependent on a healthy, clean and diverse environment."

"We have already designated those marine features we need to protect such as maerl beds and fan mussel aggregations and now we are proposing management regimes, including limits on certain fishing activities, within each MPA."

"The impact in the vast majority of cases will mean modest changes to fishing



patterns with very limited economic impact given the ability of vessels to fish elsewhere.

"The people of Scotland want our precious marine environment safeguarded and I welcome their views of those who responded to our consultation."

"We owe it to future generations to take action and I was particularly struck by the comments of the pupils of Sunnyside primary school in Glasgow, who came up with the tagline 'We are Sunnyside Ocean Defenders and we want to defend our seas.'"

Skipper was caught with cocaine

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AN Oban boat skipper has been fined £1,200 for selling cocaine after being caught red-handed by police.

Scott McMillan pleaded guilty to a charge of supplying the Class A drug, namely cocaine, after he was stopped by police on April 19 near his

home address at Kerrera Terrace, Dunollie.

A search of McMillan's car found five wraps of cocaine, totalling 4.2grammes, worth around £40-50 per gramme. Police also discovered £200 in cash under the car steering wheel and amongst a collection of CD players.

Oban sheriff court heard on Tuesday that McMillan, 28,

admitted an addiction to the drug, causing him to sell cocaine in order to fund his own £100-a-week habit.

Defence lawyer Edward Thornton said McMillan had initially been suspended from his job as a boat skipper, but has now taken steps to address his addiction.

Mr Thornton said: "Mr McMillan was in the unfortunate

position of having developed a cocaine habit."

"He was a regular user of the drug and as he was spending £100 a week on his habit, it developed into a serious problem for him. He made no attempt to hide what had happened when he was stopped."

"He has a responsible job as the boat skipper at a fish farm and earns around £1,500 a

month. He told his employers and they were very supportive."

"He was suspended as they wanted him to address the problem. He has contacted addiction services to deal with his drug abuse problem. He sought assistance for his problem and a care plan has been discussed."

Sheriff Ruth Anderson, QC, fined McMillan £1,200, payable at £200 a month.

Signing up for Ganavan beach battle

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CAMPAIGNERS for free parking at Ganavan Beach in Oban say they have the backing of the community after 190 people turned out to sign their petition on Saturday.

Oban woman, Doreen MacLeod, who started the campaign, said: "We haven't had a single 'no' so far."

Fellow campaign organiser and Oban businesswoman, Margaret Cooper, said: "It's been very positive. We want to keep the momentum going."

"We've had people out since we set up our stall at 1.30pm and there's been a constant stream since."

Obanite Valerie Macarthur put pen to paper to show her support for the campaign. She said: "I'm from Oban originally, and moved away before coming back. I remember Ganavan being a public place that people enjoyed."

"I believe it should belong to the people. I've been coming here since I was a wee girl, so I



wanted to come along and show my support. It's a great facility."

Judith Vajk, who runs a business at Loch Creran, also signed the petition, saying: "It's not very welcoming to have to pay to park in Ganavan. It should be free

SIGNING UP: Judith Vajk and Valerie Macarthur sign the petition as Doreen MacLeod (third from left) and Margaret Cooper (right) look on

because it's a beach for people to use. Meanwhile, you get people parking at the Atlantis centre for a week for free, which is in the centre of Oban, leaving no parking for others using the centre's facilities."

Cafe society comes at a cost in Stafford Street

OBAN traders claiming to be 'thousands of pounds down' due to the delay in the pedestrianisation of Stafford Street, can apply to the council for compensation.

Stafford Street shops such as The Whisky and Fine Wine Shop, Room 15, The Pokey Hat, Little Bay Cafe, The Wee Gallery and Kronks Take Away and Cafe have had to put up with construction works outside their doors since January.

Now some of the businesses are considering asking Argyll and Bute Council for compensation, claiming their trade has been affected by the delay.

Owner of ice cream parlour, The Pokey Hat, Alex MacKenzie, has concerns that not only has he lost trade, but he has been unable to afford the additional staff members he had planned to recruit.

An Argyll and Bute Council spokesman argued that the regeneration programme in and around Stafford Street will bring long-term benefits to the town.

He said: "Our focus is on initiatives which will benefit the whole community in the longer

term by attracting visitors into the town, highlighting Oban as a great place to visit and to live."

"Once all the regeneration work is complete, Oban will be an even more desirable destination."

"We have every confidence that this major investment in the town, combined with the drive and determination of the community, is going to bring significant benefits for everyone."

He pointed out the council was providing a level of financial assistance to Stafford Street traders with a one-year freeze on the cafe pavement licence fee.

He said: "The license fee for those wishing to provide outdoor seating will be waived in the first year of operation across the council area."

"To award public money as compensation to local businesses, we would need to see clear evidence of loss and a correlation between that and the ongoing regeneration works, particularly when access to businesses has been maintained at all times of their operation."

Pensioner with hip break left in pain for three days

A PENSIONER was left in pain for days waiting on surgery for a hip fracture because there were no hospital beds available.

An apology was issued by NHS Highland following an investigation which revealed the male patient, named only as Mr C, struggled to recover from the operation because of the high dosage of pain relief medication he received while waiting for a hospital bed.

Mr C fell in July 2013 fracturing his hip. He was taken to his local hospital and was due to be transferred to Raigmore in Inverness for surgery but the elderly man was left on high levels of morphine for two days while waiting for a bed. It was three days before Mr C got his operation and his wife said this resulted in poor recovery and a decline in health. Mr C died in May 2014, less than a year after the incident.

Mrs C complained to the board of NHS Highland,

resulting in an investigation by the Scottish public services ombudsman's office which last week said the patient 'was not prioritised appropriately'.

Elaine Mead, chief executive of NHS Highland, said: "I want to publicly apologise on behalf of NHS Highland for our failure to treat this patient within a reasonable time."

"A review is being undertaken on our procedures for the transfer of emergency trauma patients to Raigmore Hospital."

The ombudsman's report highlights four recommendations to be implemented by NHS Highland, including providing evidence procedures are in place to deal with emergency trauma patients, carrying out an audit of the last 50 patients admitted to Raigmore for hip fracture surgery, bringing the case to the attention of Raigmore's bed management team and apologising to Mrs C for the failures.

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OLD FIRM FAVOURITES: An old firm game in Fort William on Sunday raised more than £1,000 for football in Lochaber

Old firm fun day raises cash for amateur football in Lochaber

A FOOTBALL fun day held at the weekend raised £1,240 for amateur football in Lochaber.

The event on Sunday included

children's football, an old firm game and an over 35s old firm as well as a raffle, face painting and bouncy castle.

Of the money raised £500 will be donated to the Marine Harvest welfare league, £500 will be given to the children's summer Street

League and the remaining £240 will go to Fort William under 17s. Organiser Damian MacDonald thanked everyone who took part,

helped and donated raffle prizes. He added: 'We have to encourage all levels of football in Lochaber, and I hope the money

Football

donated to the various levels helps in some way.'

Success for three Lochaber Phoenix boxers in Elgin

LOCHABER Phoenix boxing club travelled north for their final show of the season, hosted by Elgin boxing club.

It was worth the trip for the Fort William men as they notched up three victories from their young fighters.

First up was light heavyweight Lee Bruce who engaged in a rematch with Elgin's Elliot Lees.

Seventeen-year-old Bruce had been beaten by the host boxer last week but had learned his lessons as he won all three rounds this weekend, using a strategy of side to side movement and quick feet to get inside Elliott's long reach.

Next up was Scottish champion

Cameron Whyte who faced the up and coming Daryl Russell from Inverness. Russell started well in the opener but in the second round Whyte turned it up a notch as he utilised a strong jab and clever footwork to square the match up going into the last. This round was a procession as Whyte went through his full repertoire to run out a convincing winner.

Another Lochaber 13-year-old on show was the promising Ewan Easson who after a slow start against Elgin's Ian Reid went through the gears to dominate his more experienced opponent.

Inflicting a standing right count on his opponent in the final

Boxing

round Easson was in such control that Reid did well to make it to the final bell.

But it wasn't a total success for the Phoenix boxers as senior middleweight Mark Gillespie lost his first fight to Highland boxing academy's Craig MacIntosh. This was a gruelling contest as both boxers received head and eye damage. Gillespie had a lot of success with his jab whereas MacIntosh looked to work at close range. The decision could have gone either way but Gillespie lost the fight.

Steven wins Runduro event



Athletics

YOUNG Lochaber runner Steven Burns beat off competition from all over the UK in this year's multi-stage Runduro event.

The 17-year-old came first in all but one of the seven sections of the race by No Fuss Events, completing the course in 38 minutes and 20 seconds on Sunday.

Twenty one runners took on the course and second-place Christopher Busby was almost two minutes behind Burns, finishing in 40 minutes and 11 seconds.

Top 10 finishers: 1 Steven Burns 38:20; 2 Christopher Busby 40:11; 3 Stuart Whittaker 42:43; 4 Evan Grant 43:39; 5 Ian MacDonald 43:56; 6 Graeme Whyte 44:03; 7 Ewan Hue 44:16; 8 Dale Rodgers 44:56; 9 Gordon Dixon 46:59; 10 Alan Maloney 48:50.

TOP MAN: Lochaber's Steven Burns, middle, took first place in this year's Runduro race. He is pictured with second place Christopher Busby and third place Stuart Whittaker



IMPRESSIVE: Lochaber gymnastics club impressed their audience at a display in Fort William

Gymnasts strutt their stuff

MORE than 50 gymnasts showed off their talents at a display in Fort William and raised £1,300 for the Lochaber gymnastics club. The show last Thursday included a mix of routines choreographed by instructors and the children themselves and displayed impressive skill, strength, flexibility and creativity.

Bridget Thomas, active schools coordinator, said: "Lochaber gymnastics club is a key part of the local active schools strategy. This involves creating, developing and delivering a wide range of opportunities for children to



TALENTED: The advanced class of Lochaber gymnastics club

participate in physical activity and sport. We recruit, train and support volunteers to increase the number of activity clubs, festivals and sporting competitions that take place.'

Anyone interested in helping or

Gymnastics

coaching at classes can contact Ms Thomas on 07747762497 or bridget.thomas@highlifefhland.com.



Brian and Bill win MacIntyre Trophy

Bowls

ROSE MacIntyre presents the D MacIntyre trophy in memory of her husband to the winners of the balloted pairs competition at the Railway bowling club, Inverlochy.

Winners were Brian Moffat (second left) and Bill Gibbons (second right) with the runners up place going to Jackie Daiydon (right) and Tommy Campbell (left).

Mallaig make Baird final without kicking a ball

Welfare football

MALLAIG have made it to the final of the Marine Harvest welfare league's John Baird cup without even having to kick a ball.

They went automatically through to the semi final when another team pulled out of the league and sailed through to the final when their semi final opponents, Lundavra, failed to field a team for the game.

It will be Caol United who face Mallaig in the final tomorrow night (Friday), after they beat Ballachulish 4-1 last week. Kick off is at 7pm at Lochaber high school.

In last week's league games Lochaber thrashed Lundavra 10-0 and bottom of the table Nevis Range suffered another two defeats, going down 7-3 to the Volley and 7-4 to Lochaber.

This week, Lochaber were due to play the Volley on Monday. Mallaig faced Ballachulish on Tuesday and Caol United faced Nevis Range last night.

Next week's league games: Ballachulish v Lochaber Monday June 29, Caol United v the Volley Tuesday June 30, Mallaig v Lundavra Wednesday July 1.

Callum wins Eagle Crag race

Athletics

CALLUM Fraser was crowned winner of this year's Eagle Crag race, run by Lochaber athletic club (LAC) on Saturday.

Fraser, of LAC, cleared the six-mile route at Blarmachfoldach in one hour, two minutes and 27 seconds, more than a minute ahead of second-place John Gay, also of LAC, who finished in one hour, three minutes and 46 seconds.

In third it was fellow LAC runner Steve MacDonald but Lina Marfall of Deeside runners prevented a clean sweep for Lochaber when she took the prize for first female home in one hour, 17 minutes and 37 seconds.

Next weekend LAC will host three races over three days to mark the club's annual triple hurple, starting with the three and a half mile Meall an t-Suide on Saturday (June 27). This will be followed by a run to the halfway point of Ben Nevis, starting from Claggan park on Sunday, before the final race up Cow Hill on Monday evening.

Top 10 finishers, Lochaber AC unless otherwise stated: 1 Callum Fraser 1:02:27; 2 Jon Gay 1:03:46; 3 Steve MacDonald 1:04:01; 4 Alan Smith (Deeside runners) 1:05:02; 5 Steven Traill 1:09:18; 6 Gavin MacMillan 1:10:43; 7 Stewart Wilson (Inverness Harriers) 1:12:05; 8 Ali Kennedy 1:12:07; 9 Pawel Cymbalista 1:12:12.

Surprise guest at Tradewinds

Darts

DARTS players in Corpach had a surprise at the weekend when a professional player appeared in Tradewinds bar for a game.

Alan 'Chuck' Norris, finalist in last year's British darts association world championship appeared as a surprise addition to the usual line up of competitors. Norris won the final by three legs to two against Michael Slezas but onlookers said Slezas pushed the professional all the way.

An open competition will be held in Tradewinds this Sunday (June 28) from 2pm.

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WEATHER

Thursday Light rain
Winds light south westerly
Temperatures 11°C to 16°C.

Friday Heavy rain showers
Winds light south south easterly
Temperatures 10°C to 16°C.

Weekend Outlook Heavy rain on Saturday
Light rain showers on Sunday
Winds light south south westerly
Temperatures 11°C to 16°C.

TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, June 25, 2015** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm	Ardrihaig	Mallaig
Thur	06.08 1.9 12.01 2.9 18.01 1.7 ** ** **	18.59 1.8	-5.35	+0.25
Fri	00.01 3.0 07.13 1.9 13.28 2.9	19.59 1.7	-5.30	+0.55
Sat	01.28 3.0 08.19 1.8 14.32 3.0	20.58 1.7	-0.47	+0.16
Sun	02.39 3.1 09.15 1.6 15.22 3.2	21.57 1.5	2.00	+5.30
Mon	03.33 3.3 09.59 1.4 16.06 3.4	22.44 1.3		
Tues	04.20 3.5 10.39 1.2 16.48 3.6	23.31 0.9		
Wed	05.02 3.6 11.17 1.0 17.27 3.8			

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate